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LD0902142689 [Editorial Report]

Israel

A Jewish settler and four Arabs died in the continuing violence, according to IDF and Jerusalem radio reports.

The Israeli was killed when a Molotov cocktail was thrown at his vehicle while traveling to his settlement in Alfe Menashe.

Two Arabs were killed in clashes with soldiers in Janin and Qabatiyah; a third died from wounds caused by IDF gunfire during demonstrations in the Gaza Strip the previous day.

The other Arab was killed when military policeman opened fire to quell a riot in Megiddo Prison.

Fourteen other inmates were injured, one of them seriously.

The riot erupted when prisoners were informed that a visit by relatives would be cut short.

The Inner Cabinet discussed security policy in the territories and resolved that the government will continue acting firmly against "every kind of terror," Jerusalem radio noted.

In an interview with IDF radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir contended that the U.S. report on the human rights situation in the territories is "unbalanced" as it does not take into account the "murderous attacks" on Israelis.

He stressed that the state must defend itself against the "war" being waged against it, adding that those involved in the "intifadah" are responsible for "all" the loss of human life and suffering, which will lead "nowhere." The Arabs believe violence can force an Israeli withdrawal but they are "utterly mistaken" as "we will withdraw from nowhere."

Shamir also said he does not think Richard Schifter's report will endanger U.S.-Israeli relations, because "the people who count" in the United States "understand the events here."

A more detailed response to the Schifter report was contained in Defense Ministry and Foreign Ministry statements published by THE JERUSALEM POST.

The Defense Ministry stressed Israel's commitment to human rights and to ensuring that soldiers act within regulations, pointing out that soldiers are permitted to open fire with live ammunition only when their lives are in danger.

The Foreign Ministry said the Schifter report failed to give full consideration to the violence used by "local extremist elements" and drew attention to Israeli and Arab casualties caused by "extremist violence."

PLO/Palestinian Affairs

Mustafa al-Zibri, deputy leader of the PFLP and a member of the PLO executive committee, announced in Damascus that the PLO will pursue military operations against Israel, regardless of the U.S. reaction, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

A Palestinian source cited by the radio stated that the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising" and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) have reached an agreement on cooperation and coordination.

Jordan

The authorities cancelled the licenses of moneychangers and closed their offices for "violating" the agreed guidelines on foreign exchange rates, Amman radio reported.

The moneychangers' "illegal practices and irresponsible behavior" caused an "unjustified" rise in exchange rates against the dinar and a fall in foreign currency reserves, the radio added.

The governor of the Central Bank accused the moneychangers of harming the economy by smuggling capital out of the country, financing undeclared imports, and evading customs duty and taxes, Amman television noted.

Iraq

RCC member Taha Yasin Ramadan announced that 100 Army units are to be withdrawn from the frontline by the end of March, INA reported citing ALIF BA' weekly.

Iran

Amnesty—Tehran radio broadcast the text of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's 8 February letter in which he endorsed Intelligence Minister Mohammad Reyshahri's proposal to grant a "general amnesty to imprisoned members of grouplets."

Khomeyni urged families of the prisoners to advise their children not to take action that will cause renewed distress and he also called on officials to treat those set free with kindness and help find them employment.

Khomeyni was responding to a letter from Reyshahri recommending the release of members of "grouplets" since "there is no longer any danger threatening the revolution from this direction."

However, Reyshahri added the proviso that 900 of these detainees who were "directly implicated in crimes and [illegible] must be exempted from the amnesty."

In Baghdad, Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi cast doubt on the validity of the amnesty announcement, stating that if it is not baseless, the regime must allow a UN mission to visit "all prisons, torture chambers, and cemeteries" in Iran, according to AFP. **Anniversary Criticisms**—President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker

'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Chief Justice 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili all responded "frankly" to a series of "blunt" questions in interviews marking the 10th anniversary of the revolution, IRNA reported.

Khamene'i criticized the "lack of a centralized executive administration" and called for a "review" of the revolution, "with the exception of the war because of security issues."

Rafsanjani acknowledged that Iran "took too big a bite" in its war aims, while Ardabili said the war should have been stopped after the liberation of Khorramshahr in 1982.

Air Force—Tehran radio carried remarks by Air Force commander Brigadier General Sattari at a meeting with Khomeyni during which he noted that the Air Force hopes to fly a domestically-built jet fighter "in the near future."

The radio subsequently broadcast his announcement that Iran has developed an in-flight refueling capability for its F-5E aircraft.

Velayati in Spain—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and expressed Iran's readiness to expand relations with Spain, Tehran radio noted.

Madrid radio said that Spain seeks to adjust its unfavorable trade balance with Iran by participating in Iranian reconstruction projects.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Affairs—The mujahidin groups based in Iran and Pakistan agreed to convene the first session of the Consultative Council in Rawalpindi 10 February, Tehran radio reported.

However, chairman of the Pakistan-based alliance Sebghatullah Mojaddedi warned that if "certain" groups in his alliance who are dissatisfied with their quota in the council continue to oppose the agreement on the council's composition, the alliance "will not take part in the council," IRNA noted.

In a related development, mujahidin commanders have expressed doubts about how representative the council will be, and some "critics" demand free elections, AFP reported, adding that "dozens" of people were injured in fights between rival Afghan factions in Peshawar 8 February during a demonstration in support of former king Zahir Shah.

In Iran, four groups of Afghan mujahidin formed a new alliance called the Afghanistan Islamic Fajr Front, according to IRNA.

Iranian Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani stated that Iran would like to see a "bloodless transition of power in Afghanistan," IRNA reported.

Security Situation/Withdrawal—"Extremists" killed 7 people and wounded 20 others in an 8 February rocket attack on Kabul, according to Kabul radio.

Resistance sources in Islamabad cited by AFP claimed that the Afghan Army took 2,000 civilians hostage on 1 February to force Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to end his attacks on the Salang highway.

The last 150 Soviet advisers and soldiers have left Qandahar, AFP reported citing resistance sources in Quetta.

The report added that the Afghan Government has stopped bombing raids on mujahidin positions in Qandahar Province.

Najibullah Speech—The government's actions and policies have the support and trust of the religious leaders, President Najibullah declared in a speech broadcast by Kabul radio.

There can be "no doubt" that the national reconciliation policy and the maintenance of peace between Muslims are in "complete accord" with Islam, he contended.

He asserted that those who demand the removal of a government which has "500,000 people under arms" and diplomatic relations with 85 countries are now killing each other, demanding partition, or even a "confederation with Pakistan."

Sudan

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had a "secret" meeting on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border in January with SPLA leader John Garang, WAKH reported citing Sudanese Foreign Trade Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad.

The two sides reportedly discussed the preparation of more military operations against the Sudanese Army.

Defense Minister 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil denied a BBC report that he has submitted his resignation, SUNA noted.

Algerian-Moroccan Talks

"Minutes" of the talks between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Moroccan King Hassan II were signed in Fes, APS reported.

The document notes that the talks were aimed at consolidating "fraternal and historic ties" and strengthening cooperation and good-neighborliness between the two countries.

The two countries also signed an agreement on the construction of a gas pipeline to transport Algerian gas to Europe, Algiers radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

London Paper Cites Sources on Baghdad Talks

PM0802161989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Feb 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Husayn Mediates To Settle Iraqi-Syrian Differences Over Lebanon"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to diplomatic sources in Beirut, the Lebanese situation topped the issues discussed by Jordan's King Husayn during his visit to Baghdad, concluded yesterday, where he also discussed with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn the Arab situation and the latest developments related to the Palestinian question.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that King Husayn will continue efforts toward a sustainable reconciliation between Iraq and Syria that would be different from the reconciliation that took place between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn at the Amman summit conference and that later turned out to be just a mediation attempt.

The sources revealed that the Iraqi side repeated what it had already told the Jordanian monarch, namely that it considers the Gulf war to be over—with Iraq as the victor—that it no longer gives priority treatment to attitudes adopted before the war, and that the main disagreement with Syria presently is over the situation in Lebanon.

The sources said that the Jordanian king interceded with Baghdad to scale down its support for some of the sides opposed to the Syrian military presence in Lebanon in an attempt to cool the Syrian-Iraqi dispute over Lebanon and pave the way for a formula for understanding between the two sides.

The sources noted that the Iraqi side said in advance that it was not interested in a formality or personal reconciliation and it refused to accept the status quo in Lebanon even if Syria wanted reconciliation.

The sources said that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz told one of the Arab foreign ministers participating in the work of the ministerial committee for Lebanon that it is in the interest of all Arab states that no state should be allowed to interfere in the affairs of its neighbors because that would constitute a serious precedent.

The sources quoted Iraqi diplomats as saying that what Iraq wanted was a return to some kind of Arab balance in Lebanon so that the Arab role in Lebanon would not be monopolized by just one state and would not be at the expense of Lebanon's independence and sovereignty.

The sources further said that Iraq informed Michel 'Awn's government that in the absence of a settlement in Lebanon, the Lebanese file will be given priority in all Iraqi moves at the Arab level. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Envoy Asks PLO About Israel Infiltration

NC0802160089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Tunis, 8 Feb (MENA)—U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau today contacted a prominent Palestinian figure, believed to be Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunisia. A senior Palestinian source has informed MENA's Tunis correspondent that Pelletreau inquired about an infiltration attempt by five armed men from southern Lebanon into Israeli territory.

The source declined to give more details. He urged the United States, however, to do something about Israeli military operations in southern Lebanon. The source said that the military action in question is by standards a legitimate act to liberate southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

The Palestinian source also called on the international community to intervene immediately to stop the new war Israel has begun to launch against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to stop its use of new weapons to suppress the popular uprising in the occupied territories.

PLO To Continue Operations Against Israel

JN0802162489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] In Damascus, PLO Executive Committee Member Abu 'Ali Mustafa has affirmed that the PLO will pursue its military operations against Israel, no matter what the U.S. reaction will be toward the PLO in this respect.

In Tunis, a Palestinian official expressed disappointment at Washington, which does not utter a word on the practices of the Israelis who kill Palestinian civilians daily in the occupied territories.

PLO Committee To Discuss Lebanon Operation

JN0802212689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2059 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Tunis, 8 Feb (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee began its meetings under Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here tonight. Palestinian sources told an INA correspondent here that the committee will discuss, during its meetings, the recent fedayeen operation and the reactions it drew with regard to the march of dialogue between the PLO and the United States.

The sources added that the meetings will also deal with the issue of forming the provisional Palestinian government and the Palestinian move in Europe and the world, in addition to the recent Zionist escalation against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territory.

PFLP Official on PLO Contacts With U.S.

JN0802180789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] PFLP Assistant Secretary General Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] held a news conference in his office in Damascus during which he announced that the forces of occupation continue to use weapons against children and women. He also said that 40,000 persons have been arrested since the beginning of the uprising, which has been going on for 14 months. Abu 'Ali Mustafa appealed to the international media to persistently work for rescuing 24 Palestinian journalists who are in Israeli jails.

In reply to a question on reports that his name was mentioned as being one of the members of the Palestinian delegation that reportedly is to visit Damascus for talks with the Syrian command, Abu 'Ali Mustafa said: I have been here for many weeks, and no one has contacted me to inform me that I am a member in such a delegation.

He added: In my capacity as PLO Executive Committee member, I say that we wish something of the kind would take place. We know that there have been talks conducted through the Arab reconciliation channels to mend the relations between the PLO and Syria. However, this has so far not produced tangible results.

On relations between the PLO and the United States, Abu 'Ali Mustafa said: All that the United States has undertaken during the Tunis talks is only a formal measure that was not coupled with declared and explicit steps with respect to the official recognition of the PLO, or to that effect, the recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights. He added: The United States continues to avoid replying to these two points.

On the proclamation of the Palestinian provisional government, Abu 'Ali Mustafa said that this issue depends on the availability of two basic conditions: the emergence of serious signs toward ending the Middle East problem, and the completion of the work of the political committee, particularly the program of the government, the organizational relations between the government and the Palestinian factions, and the fundamental law of the government. He said: If all this is not achieved, how can a provisional government be proclaimed?

Official on Saudi Mediation Between PLO, Syria

JN0802090589 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 6 Feb 89 pp 1, 19

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] Rafiq al-Natshah, Abu Shakir, Fatah Central Committee member and ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has said that the Kingdom has, for some time, been undertaking political mediation to clear the political atmosphere among some Arab states in general and between Syria and the PLO in particular.

In a telephone conversation AL-WATAN held with him in Riyadh, he added that Saudi mediation between Syria and the PLO, which is sponsored and supervised by Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has not thus far produced any desirable, tangible results.

He pointed out that this is because of the slow Syrian response, which he explained, is attributed to the nature of moving from a position of conflict with the PLO to one of cooperation with it and other Arab states. He said that such an issue needs time and will not be settled immediately. He stressed that the PLO is exerting great efforts to direct all potential toward confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

He added: We are still expressing our readiness to cooperate with all sides in this regard. At the same time, we appreciate the efforts being exerted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He expressed the PLO's readiness to respond fully to these efforts as long as they recognize and respect the PLO's independent militant and political action in accordance with PNC resolutions and within the framework of joint Arab cooperation and the Arab summit resolutions.

Al-Natshah stressed that Saudi mediation is continuing and the Palestinian side remains optimistic over its ability to achieve fruitful results.

'Abbas Discusses Syrian Ties, U.S. Dialogue

JN0802115589 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Feb 89 p 25

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, given to an unidentified correspondent of AL-ANBA' and AL-SAKHRAH newspapers—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [AL-ANBA'] Within the framework of the Arab position on the international conference, it was announced that signs of normalization in Syrian-PLO relations are appearing and that a Palestinian delegation will visit Damascus.

['Abbas] I am aware of Arab endeavors to clear the Arab atmosphere, that Jordan is trying to clear the atmosphere between Egypt and Syria, and that perhaps Jordan realized steps in this direction. I am also aware of Jordan's efforts to clear the atmosphere between Iraq and Syria. According to the information we have, there is nothing new in this regard.

For our part, we mediated between Egypt and Libya and were able to stop the propaganda war. As for our ties with Syria, there has not so far been any gestures to clear the atmosphere and I do not think that a Palestinian delegation will go to Syria. [passage omitted]

[AL-ANBA'] What about the U.S. position? Has the dialogue stopped?

['Abbas] The dialogue has not stopped. We had a round of this dialogue and bilateral meetings followed between the ambassadors in Tunis. We have requested another round of talks with the Bush Administration. I think it will be held soon.

[AL-ANBA'] How serious are the Americans?

['Abbas] Their seriousness will be tested in the future. We will see if the Americans are serious in their quest for peace. One round of talks is not enough to judge U.S. intentions. We will assume that they are serious until proved otherwise.

[AL-ANBA'] Has the Palestinian delegation been formed for continuing the dialogue?

['Abbas] The delegation will be the same.

[AL-ANBA'] Has the Palestinian problem reached the stage where the superpowers are in agreement on it?

['Abbas] The U.S. position is almost identical with the USSR position in terms of a comprehensive outlook on a solution. There are differences over details and, when the two sides agree on these details, the problem should be presented for a solution. [passage omitted]

[AL-ANBA'] With the start of the PLO-U.S. dialogue, some people started to cast doubt on Soviet-Palestinian relations.

['Abbas] The Soviet-Palestinian relationship is based on complete trust, credibility, and coordination. We are perfectly aware that the Arab-Soviet relationship is good. However, the PLO-Soviet relationship is programmed and organized on all issues related to the Middle East. We exchange views and information and visits systematically. There is also a permanent coordination committee.

[AL-ANBA'] What about ties with Jordan? Now that Jordan has clearly recognized the Palestinian state, have you discussed with the Jordanian side alleviating the difficulties of our people in the occupied territries?

['Abbas] After the disengagement decision, Jordan stopped doing many things that it had been doing before. Jordan is still active in certain fields. We coordinated on issues that Jordan abandoned such as the salaries, employees, and other issues. We have decided that Jordan should continue to manage the things that it did not abandon. Of course there are daily minor issues here and there that are discussed between our Amman embassy and the Jordanian Government. [passage omitted]

[AL-ANBA'] The six-member Arab committee chaired by the Kuwaiti foreign minister has won Arab and international backing. Can this committee realize successes now that the balance of power in Lebanon has somewhat changed?

['Abbas] It could succeed, provided the Lebanese respond to its moves. The Lebanese should realize that Lebanon will be partitioned soon if the situation is stabilized as it is today. The Lebanese parties involved should respond to the work of the committee. Let tampering with Lebanon's fate stop so it will not be a model for fresh divisions in the Arab homeland.

[AL-ANBA'] What is the PLO attitude toward the six-member committee?

['Abbas] We are ready to respond to any solution that preserves the safe and free presence of the Palestinian people, maintains Lebanese unity, and spares the blood of the Lebanese people.

Agreement Reached With Hamas on 'Uprising'

JN0802181789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] A Palestinian source has stated the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, have reached an agreement for coordination and cooperation between them, whether with respect to calls for strikes or on operations for resisting the occupation.

Radio Cites 'Uprising' Committees' Call No 34

JN0802183289 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1726 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Struggling brothers, I just received the following piece of news: The popular and national committees of the uprising issued Call No 34, calling for the following activities:

11 February is a day of popular rage in protest against tax collection and theft of Palestinian money;

13 February is a day for stepping up the uprising and attacking agents, traitors, appointed committees, and civil administration organs;

14 February is a day for Palestinian popular education;

16 February is a day of rage by the masses to confront Zionist settlers;

18 February is a day for demonstrations and sit-ins staged by the masses in protest against the repressive and terrorist measures used on the imprisoned detainees;

19, 20, and 21 February are days for general strike to affirm our national rights to repatriation and self-determination;

23 and 25 February are days for the Palestinian Molotov.

Bethlehem Mayor Discusses 'Uprising,' Peace
JN0602075589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2050 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Amman, 5 Feb (WAKH)—Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has urged Israel to take a brave step and recognize the Palestinian people's national rights and accept a peaceful solution that will achieve peace and security for the Middle East peoples.

In an interview with WAKH, Frayj affirmed that the Palestinian uprising has effected a substantial and positive change among more than half of the Israelis, who are now calling for the achievement of a just peace.

He said that the valiant uprising in occupied Palestine is continuous and that it is the only path to liberation and to an effective international conference in order to find a comprehensive, durable, and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He affirmed that the uprising will bring all parties, including Israel and the PLO, to an international peace conference. He indicated that the heroes of the uprising have moved the world and created wide-scale political support in most world states for the Palestine question and placed Israel in an unprecedented critical position.

The Bethlehem mayor said that Israel used to claim that it wants peace. However, he said, peace requires withdrawing [Israeli forces] from the occupied territories, recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate political and national rights just like other peoples of the world.

The Bethlehem mayor appreciated the Arab states' stand on the Palestine question, especially the stands of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Egypt and their continued support for the Palestinian people and their just cause.

Frayj paid tribute in particular to Jordanian stands on the Palestine question. He said that the opening of a Palestinian Embassy in Amman indicates Jordan's recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and responsibilities. He said this move has removed sensitivities and duality and constituted major political support for the PLO.

He expressed support for a confederation with Jordan because the Jordanians and Palestinians are partners in both good and bad times and are linked by distinguished relations and a common destiny.

He affirmed that Jordanian and Palestinian delegations will be the focus of any peace process, as these two delegations will be particularly active at the negotiating table.

He stressed the importance of an Arab decision to return Egypt to its prominent position in the Arab League in order to take part in all Arab activities within a unified effort.

Frayj spoke about the solutions that had been reached to all regional disputes except for the Palestine question, which remains outstanding. He said that Israeli policy has no peace plans. He said it has only one plan, which is to keep the land and continue to build Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said all that Israel offers is self-rule for the population, without land.

He stressed that this proposal is rejected by all Palestinians inside the occupied territories. He said: We demand the right to sovereignty, complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, the right to self-determination over our national soil, and the establishment of our independent state.

Frayj affirmed that the uprising, with its martyrs and wounded, will certainly lead to a just peace through an international conference.

On the international situation, Frayj said: I believe that popular public opinion in the world and media, as well as European political opinion, and the U.S. decision to open a direct dialogue with the PLO in its capacity as sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people are decisive historic achievements. This is demonstrated by the international moves and meetings with the PLO's leadership.

Also, the meetings between the Palestinian officials, particularly PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and senior European officials—particularly the Madrid meetings—are a political achievement and decisive success for the Palestine question and its legitimate leadership. He added that this constitutes recognition of the Palestinian leadership and the rights of the Palestinian people. These achievements will certainly result in the continuation of international support for our just causes.

Frayj noted that the political success achieved by the PLO in the world, the continuation of the uprising, and the Palestinian people's determination to continue the sacrifices on the path of this uprising will lead to the expected results before the end of this year—that is, the convening of the international peace conference.

Answering another question, the Bethlehem mayor said that for the past 14 months Israel has been preoccupied with the developments of the uprising. All Israeli workshops—institutes, centers, and parties from the extreme right to the extreme left—are searching for a way to end the uprising. This is in addition to the criminal and brutal practices of the Israeli forces in the occupied territory. He added that the results of all this were a failure because the uprising continues to escalate daily.

Answering a question on the so-called Israeli political initiatives, Frayj said that Israel has not presented any acceptable initiative.

Frayj said that he believes the main topic of discussion between the French, British, and U.S. officials on the one hand and the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister on the other will be the Palestine question. He noted that the stands of Britain and France are clear. He added that the American stand, so far, has not approached recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

However, he added, there is a large-scale change in American public opinion, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the circles of the U.S. Administration itself on the need to reach an agreement with Israel on the general outlines for a political solution the outcome of which will be granting the Palestinian people the right to self-determination.

Rabin Comments on PLO Merit 'Contempt'

JN0802095989 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1745 GMT 7 Feb 89

[News analysis]

[Text] Zionist war minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in a statement to a U.S. Jewish delegation currently visiting the occupied territory that because of PLO terrorism, the Palestinians in the territories will run a grave risk if they declare their convictions or do what they want. Rabin noted that had it not been for PLO terrorism, a local Palestinian leadership would have emerged, willing to negotiate with Israel.

The facts are that, despite his being war minister in charge of quelling and ending the uprising on enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's instructions, Rabin has never shown either courage or truthfulness. He is always lying and timorous about Palestinian facts.

Occupation war minister Rabin is well aware that the PLO renounced terrorism under the eyes of the whole world. How can the PLO exercise terrorism against its own people, the people of the glorious uprising, who are daily holding aloft the banner of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, and who are escalating their uprising in the name of the PLO and their Unified National Leadership, armed with PLO resolutions as expressed by the Algiers 19th PNC session?

Zionist war minister Rabin can witness this fact every day and every hour in the streets of the Palestinian towns, villages, and camps, which are adhering to the uprising until certain victory, God willing. However, when he faced the American Jewish delegation, he lost his courage and veracity and resorted to lies and complaints. He complained of the lack of local Palestinian leadership to negotiate with.

Rabin, who will always fail to stop the uprising no matter how much he indulges in force, terror, and crime against the people of the uprising, is now resorting to outdated arguments by trying to separate what he calls the Palestinians of the territories from the Palestinians outside the occupied territories, so there can be a Palestinian leadership to negotiate with him outside the PLO framework.

We would like to reassure Rabin that it is impossible to find a single Palestinian inside the occupied territories who can realize Rabin's wish by negotiating with him outside the PLO framework.

From another angle, we would like to ask Rabin what will this Palestinian leadership outside the PLO negotiate about? Does he want it to negotiate with him on denying the Palestinian people's right to have their independent state or on approving the Zionist project of autonomy, which is rejected by our Palestinian people everywhere?

Our Palestinian people, who adhere to their national rights—self-determination and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital under PLO leadership—and who are escalating their glorious uprising regardless of the sacrifices, will perpetuate Rabin's failure to quell the uprising or to find a local leadership that would negotiate with him.

Rabin's ideas will always be met with our people's contempt and enhance our people's determination and enthusiasm to march ahead to realize their aims under the PLO, their sole legitimate represenatative. Let Rabin, Shamir, and others do whatever they want because the uprising will continue, escalate, and triumph, God willing.

Egypt

Mubarak Rejects Shamir Proposal for Meeting

JN0902082289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0755 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, 9 Feb (WAKH)—Press reports here today said Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has rejected a proposal from Yitzhaq Shamir, the Israeli entity's prime minister, to hold a meeting in the French capital, Paris.

The newspaper AL-RAYAH cited what it called informed sources in Cairo as saying Mubarak's rejection is due to the repressive Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories as well as the opposition by the Zionist entity's leaders to the Middle East peace efforts, including the holding of an international conference, in addition to this entity's procrastination in implementing the decision of the international arbitration commission on Tabah.

Further Reportage on Cairo Tabah Negotiations

Israeli Delegation Arrives

NC0802161789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1557 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—An Israeli delegation comprising the owners of the tourist facilities in the Egyptian Tabah area arrived in Cairo this evening. The delegation left for Cairo's Sonesta Hotel immediately after its arrival to join the committee which is assessing the financial compensation which Egypt will pay to the owners of the tourist facilities in Tabah.

Tourist Facilities Discussed

NC0802202789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—The second round of talks between the Egyptian and Israeli delegations on the tourist installations in Tabah was held this evening in the presence of U.S. Embassy representatives.

Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation and head of the Egyptian delegation to the talks, said that there are still deep differences between the two sides on the bases for evaluating these installations.

The Israeli delegation asked for the revision of some of the proposals that have been introduced on the financial analysis of the Sonesta Hotel in Tabah. The two sides have agreed on the analysis method, which is based on deducting the future earnings in order to arrive at the current value of the hotel.

The minister added that several of the Israeli side's proposals have been corrected and the Israeli side itself has introduced some amendments to these proposals.

Minister Sultan said that the Egyptian side estimates the value of the hotel at $20 million, while the Israeli side is demanding $70 million.

He said that the talks between the two sides will be resumed tomorrow to continue the discussion on the tourist installations. He expressed the hope that an agreement will be reached tomorrow.

The owner of the Sonesta Hotel attended the talks.

Ministry Notes 'Progress'

NC0802125089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Official sources in the Foreign Ministry have stated that, during the Egyptian-Israeli talks which began this week in Cairo and Tabah, tangible progress has been made regarding the topics under discussion, and especially those concerning the final stages of restoring Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah.

The sources added that, during the meeting which will be held in Cairo Sonesta Hotel this afternoon, the two sides will resume their discussion of the proposed compensation plan, in light of the preliminary report prepared by the Israeli delegation, as well as the Egyptian delegation's observations based on the current international rates for installations in the Middle East.

As for the topics which the two sides discussed in Tabah, the sources noted that differences still exist over certain points. The Egyptian Government presently is studying the points of difference to determine its stand and to facilitate a resumption of the negotiations.

Reports on Crisis in Ties With Riyadh Dismissed

NC0802191989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that there is not any crisis in Egyptian-Saudi relations, stressing that the relations between the two countries are strong and good. The source was responding to suspicious reports published by certain newspapers to harm Egyptian-Saudi relations.

PLO's Khalaf on Talks With 'Abd al-Majid

NC0802191089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, held talks today with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Following these talks, Khalaf stated that they had dealt with recent Palestinian political moves, the results of Yasir 'Arafat's contacts with the foreign ministers of three EC countries in Spain, and 'Arafat's meeting with a British minister of state.

Salah Khalaf said that they had also discussed the Palestinian uprising and its role in supporting Palestinian political action, as well as the need to secure Arab support for Palestinian moves.

Salah Khalaf also praised Egypt's active role in supporting Palestinian action on the international scene.

Turkish Foreign Minister, Delegation Visit Cairo

Arrive 7 Feb

NC0702153289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1436 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz arrived in Cairo this afternoon for several days' visit to Egypt during which he will have an audience with President Husni Mubarak.

The Turkish minister will also hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and will chair his country's delegation at the first session of the Egyptian-Turkish joint committee. Dr 'Abd al-Majid will chair the Egyptian delegation.

In an arrival statement, the Turkish minister stated that this is his second visit to Egypt and that it comes in response to Dr 'Abd al-Majid's visit to Turkey. He added that the Egyptian-Turkish joint committee is the first such committee which Turkey established with another country, and noted that this indicates the importance which Turkey attaches to its relations with Egypt.

He said that he will use the opportunity of his visit to Cairo to hold extensive discussions with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid that will deal with bilateral relations and Egyptian-Turkish cooperation.

Mesut Yilmaz asserted that Egyptian-Turkish relations are the foundation for attaining bilateral cooperation in the economics, cultural, and technological spheres. He said that Turkey is doing its utmost to achieve economic and social development and to attain world stability and peace.

The Turkish foreign minister referred to the exchange of visits between Egypt and Turkey and said that President Mubarak's visit to Turkey and Turkish President Kenan Evren's and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visits to Egypt opened a new era in Egyptian-Turkish relations.

He added that his country is looking forward to Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi's visit to Turkey at the earliest possible opportunity. Mesut Yilmaz expressed hope that his talks in Cairo will help promote relations between the two countries.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, who received the Turkish foreign minister, stated that Yilmaz' visit to Egypt will be a good opportunity to conduct discussions and consultations on all matters of concern to the two countries. He described relations between them as close and well-established. He noted that they are linked by strong ties.

'Abd al-Majid added that the talks which will begin tomorrow will deal with bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, developments in the Middle East, and international matters of mutual interest. He asserted that Egypt will do its utmost to strengthen Egyptian-Turkish cooperation in all spheres.

Joint Committee Talks Begins

NC0802140489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The meetings of the Egyptian-Turkish Joint Committee began at the Foreign Ministry today. Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi chaired the Egyptian delegation, and Tugay Ozceri, under secretary at the Turkish Foreign Ministry, headed the Turkish delegation.

The two delegations reviewed international issues of mutual interest, notably the Middle East issue and the Palestinian question, in light of recent developments. Egypt asserted the need for concerted efforts to expedite the holding of an international conference to discuss peace in the Middle East and attain a just and comprehensive settlement. Egypt also noted that Turkey could play a role in this respect.

The Turkish delegation stressed the importance of establishing peace in the Gulf and implementing the UN Security Council resolution pertaining to this matter. The two delegations also discussed relations between the two countries and ways of promoting them in all spheres.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will meet with the Turkish foreign minister tomorrow.

Yilmaz, Khalaf Meet Mubarak

NC0802151789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak Received Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended the meeting.

His Excellency also received Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf. Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, and Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, were present at the meeting.

Mubarak, Sidqi To Visit Turkey

TA0902062689 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz has said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will visit Turkey in September and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in June.

Yilmaz, who is in Egypt to attend the Turkish-Egyptian joint committee meetings, met with Mubarak and Sidqi today. According to an ANATOLIA AGENCY report, Yilmaz said the Egyptian leaders are very pleased with developing bilateral relations. He will return to Turkey on Friday.

U.S. Human Rights Report on Israel Praised

NC0902074989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0639 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—The Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR has praised the annual report of the U.S. State Department for its treatment of Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories.

In today's edition, the paper says that this is the first time the United States has made such a public and outspoken criticism of Israel's human rights record. The State Department's report, the paper says, took exception to Israel's rough handling of the uprising and its unwarranted killing of Palestinian civilians.

The paper notes that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has admitted that 360 people have been killed, 7,000 injured, and 22,000 jailed during the Palestinian uprising. The admission by Rabin, which was made at the same time as the U.S. State Department's report appeared, is sufficient grounds for the condemnation of the brutal and inhumane practices of the Tel Aviv authorities in dealing with stone-throwing demonstrators. These demonstrators are only seeking to draw attention to the injustice and malicious treatment which they have suffered for the past 20 years, the paper adds.

AL-AKHBAR says that Amnesty International, a nongovernmental body, has notified the U.S. Congress that Israeli violations of human rights in the West Bank and Gaza are still on the rise. Amnesty said that the Israeli Army uses unwarranted force against the demonstrators and viciously tortures the detainees.

The paper concludes by expressing the hope that this neutral stand on Washington's part will continue and that the U.S. delegation to the UN Security Council will refrain from using the right of veto to protect Israel from international condemnation of its immoral behavior. The paper also voices the hope that the new U.S. stand will be reflected in the dialogue with the PLO.

'Abd al-Majid Meets With Hague Official

NC0702115189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received today (Edward Osbita), recorder and secretary general of the International Court of Justice in the Hague. They reviewed the court's work procedure and its important role in resolving international disputes especially now that its scope of work has expanded to resolving some regional problems.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid also met today with Ambassador Watt Cluverius, commander of the Multinational Forces in the Sinai. They discussed the forces' activities in the Sinai.

Italy To Finance Projects Worth $500 Million

JN0802143489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] Italy has agreed in principle to finance projects in Egypt that are worth $500 million, $150 million of which are grants. This came during the talks which were held by the Joint Egyptian-Italian Committee in Rome last November.

A responsible economic source said some of the most prominent projects are expanding the Asyut power plant, building an electricity transformer station, land reclamation, and a sewerage project in Jabal al-Akhdar.

The source added that there is joint economic cooperation between the two countries in the economic fields. The source said: The Ministry of International Cooperation is conducting an assessment of Egypt's economic relations with a number of friendly countries to promote joint economic cooperation.

Committee To Discuss Small Depositor Refunds

PM0702165589 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 30 Jan 89 p1

[Report entitled "Committee To Refund Investment Companies Deposits"]

[Text] It has been decided to form a committee of representatives from the Stock Exchange Authority, the Central Bank, the Ministry of Economy, and the Tax Authority to discuss the cases of small depositors in the capital investment companies and to pay them the sums due to them in light of the companies' financial situation as described by expert auditors.

The committee is expected to begin its work in mid-February. Priority will be given to refunding sums from 1,000 to 5,000 pounds. Settlement will be made in full for those who deposited their money last year and who received no returns or profits.

Regarding the major depositors, their case will be examined with the Tax Authority's knowledge to determine whether they had paid the tax due on the funds they deposited and on accrued profits. Sources of the huge deposits will be examined to determine whether they should be refunded or held for further investigation, if the major depositors cannot provide evidence of their sources of wealth.

The committee will prepare a schedule for the refund of deposits from the confiscated funds of the investment companies.

A responsible source has emphasized that the small deposits will be refunded within the period specified under the law which expires on 1 June 1990.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Tunisia's Ben Ali Discuss Summit

LD0902053689 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of fraternal Tunisia, telephoned the brother leader of the revolution. They talked about the unity of the Arab Maghreb and the proposed Maghreb summit.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Algerian Envoy

LD0702115989 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, 7/2/89 (APS)—Algeria's ambassador to Tripoli, Abdelkader Hadjar, was audienced by the leader of the Libyan revolution, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to whom he handed message from President Chadli Bendjedid.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iraqi Parliamentarian

LD0802204389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Feb 89

(Text] Tripoli, 8 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Da'ud Hasan al-Dabbagh, member of the Iraqi National Assembly, and the accompanying delegation who are currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah to attend the meetings of the Basic People's Congresses' second regular session for 1989.

Morocco

Further on Visit by Algerian President Bendjedid

APS Summarizes Talks

LD0802122989 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Fes, 8/2/89 (APS)—Algerian-Moroccan talks which were held on the second day of the working and friendship visit of President Chadli Bendjedid to Morocco, led to similar points of view on a number of questions of common interest.

Because of the character of this visit of friendship and work, it is considered that the most important aspect lies in tete a tete talks held between the two heads of state who gave "very clear instruction" to the two delegations to hasten the examination of involved issues in various fields.

In this context, various meetings gathered yesterday Algerian and Moroccan ministers who explored means likely to enable them to build cooperation on solid basis in concerned sectors. Sensible progress were accomplished and a document is to be signed today by foreign ministers of the two countries.

This document, it pointed out, will shed the light on the results reached by the Algerian-Moroccan talks. It is worth recalling in this context that the two delegations assessed the works of the joint commission. Two subcommissions met already in Rabat and Algiers last October and established a working program to boost bilateral cooperation.

Tuesday, Algerian ministers of transports, of commerce and of energy, held a working session with their Moroccan counterparts to explore and deepen the future economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Algerian-Moroccan joint company in the field of gas cooperation, will have as a mission to materialize in the best conditions, the project of construction of a gas pipeline that will link Algeria to Europe, and will have its headquarters in Morocco, Algerian Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Sadek Boucena told APS.

According to Boucena, this project will need great financial investments and a number of companies from the two countries. It will also have the advantage of creating hundreds of jobs and supply thousands of Moroccan homes with gas. Once it is ended, the gas pipeline will cross the Moroccan territory to link the F.R.G. via Spain and France, Boucena added.

Talks also enabled to examine possibilities of exchange in the field of electricity, energy products and fertilizers. In the field of transports, discussions centered on possibilities to reinforces air and rail transport. A number of ideas were given from both parts to give to this strategic sector all the importance it deserves in the consolidation of this cooperation.

On his turn, Minister of Commerce Mourad Medelci told APS that "a real will to develop a lasting cooperation already exists and all fields of this cooperation have already been identified." It is considered that possibilities can be used through chambers of commerce, joint companies, import and export and trading.

However, it is considered that it is necessary to part in contact the various economic operators and help them settle problems wherever they appear. It is also concretely pointed out that the various branches of activity are considered as complementary. This is what justifies a visit by Medelci Tuesday to a textile plant near Fes.

Other possibilities exist in the field of construction materials, plastic, tyres, agriculture and food industry. The Algerian trade minister declared that there is in both sides "a great determination to effectively both cooperation in the field of commerce. [sentence as received]

Gas Pipeline Venture Planned

LD0802145889 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Ifrane, Morocco, Feb 8, (MAP)—A draft accord on the setting up of a joint venture, to be entrusted with carrying out the project on the laying down of a gas pipeline stretching from Algeria to West Germany crossing Morocco, Spain and France, is to be signed today in Fes by the Algerian and Moroccan oil companies Sonatrach and SNPP [Societe Nationale de Produits Petrolier], respectively.

The joint venture will conduct studies on the different tenders relating to the project, the line the gas pipeline is to be laid on, issues on financial and feasibility aspects of the project. Each country will contribute fifty percent to the project.

The Algerian-Moroccan section of the gas pipeline will stretch on 2000 kms: 500 in Algeria, and 1500 in Morocco and will go from Hassi Er Rmel, Algeria, through Oujda, Taza, Fes Meknes and Sidi Kacem, northern Morocco. The headquarters of the joint venture will be based in Morocco.

Algerian Minister of Transports Hedi Khediri said "the works for the implementation of the project will last three to four years. American and several Arab countries have voiced willingness to participate in the financing of the project", he added.

He announced that the Moroccan-Algerian higher commission will convene next March in Rabat to assess the results of the works of the sub-commissions on the means to upgrade bilateral cooperation.

On his part, Algerian Minister of Commerce Mourad Medelci, accompanied by his Moroccan peer Abdallah Azmani, visited the textile factory of Fes (Cotef) where he was informed on the organization, functioning and production capacity of the factory.

Bendjedid Departure Statement

LD0802174189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid left Morocco this afternoon at the end of a friendly working visit to Morocco. He was seen off at Rabat-Sales airport by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him. [passage omitted]

Before his departure, His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid made a speech which he began by recalling the new dynamism the region has seen, stressing the strong will to build the edifice of the Great Arab Maghreb. Meanwhile, Algerian citizens residing in Morocco were shouting: Long live His Majesty King Hassan II. May God protect him.

[Begin Bendjedid recording, in progress] ...the prospects and the future, God willing, we will exert efforts within the Arab Magreb framework to unite the ranks and gather our possibilities, taking into account the data and structures of each country and people. [cheers]

You have noticed in recent years the activity initiated within the Arab Maghreb framework, I repeat, within the Arab Maghreb framework. Naturally it was followed by the new atmosphere between the two brotherly countries, Morocco and Algeria. As officials in charge of these peoples, I and His Majesty King Hassan II [cheers] are determined to persevere in overcoming all obstacles and problems between us. We regret the past and the time we have lost, but these are just regets. What matters for us now is the present and the future. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Bessaieh Notes 'Rapprochement'

LD0802210189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Our correspondent in Morocco reports on the final day of President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to the Kingdom of Morocco.

The Algerian-Moroccan summit between President Chadli Bendjedid and His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco is a historic event in the relations of the two sister countries. It resulted in historic events in the fields of bilateral relations and comprehensive cooperation in the future.

Today Algeria and Morocco signed a number of agreements, the first on the reactivation of all the agreements signed by the two countries. The second agreement concerns the setting up of the joint Algerian-Moroccan company for building the pipeline to carry Algerian gas to Europe via Morocco.

The signing ceremony took place at the royal palace in Fez in the presence of His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and His Majesty King Hassan II. The first agreement was signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries: Boualem Bessaieh and Abdellatif Filali.

The second agreement was signed by Sadek Boussena, minister of energy and petrochemical industries, and his Moroccan counterpart. Thus cooperation and bilateral relations between Morocco and Algeria entered a new qualitative stage and a new era today. [passage omitted]

Also at the royal palace in Fez, Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh made a statement to the press in which he evaluated the Algerian-Moroccan summit and the issues discussed, and said the following:

[Begin Bessaieh recording] The visit paid by His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid to sister Morocco is of great importance. First, because it is a symbol of rapprochement, reconciliation, and cooperation between the two sister countries and the two fraternal peoples.

Second, because it crowns the first stage of normalized relations between the two countries.

Third, because it calls for the consolidation of the ties of fraternity between the two sister countries, in order to reach scopes characterized by the spirit of fair cooperation.

Fourth, it is a confirmation, at a time when voices are rising for the edification of the Great Arab Maghreb, that we are approaching the the second summit. Keep in

mind that the first took place in Zeralda in Algeria. While we are approaching this historic event, we must remember that it is considered a link in the chain of the previous steps for the preparation and success of this second summit. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Minutes on Talks

LD0902110889 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT 9 Feb 89

["Text of the minutes of the working meetings held within the framework of the friendly and working visit of His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic, to the Kingdom of Morocco at the invitation of his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II"]

[Text] Ifrane, 9 Feb (APS)—His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic, and His Majesty King Hassan II, of Kingdom of Morocco, met in Ifran to discuss bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

The meeting was held on the occasion of the friendship and working visit his excellency the Algerian president paid to the Kingdom of Morocco at the invitation of his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, 6-8 February 1989.

The meeting was held in an effort to consolidate the fraternal and historic ties between the Algerian and Moroccan peoples, and to realize the common desire to strengthen the relations of cooperation and good neighborliness between the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic and the Kingdom of Morocco for the well-being of the two fraternal peoples. It also coincided with the 20th anniversary of the ratification of the Treaty of Fraternity, Good Neighborliness and Cooperation between the two countries, which was signed in Ifran on 15 January 1969.

The meeting was inspired by the spirit and letter of this historic treaty, and the drive to advance the means of cooperation to the required level in light of the positive developments in relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples.

It was inspired out of their belief that this summit between Algeria and Morocco constitutes an important cornerstone in the construction of the edifice of the Arab Maghreb and is a contribution to the consolidation of the efforts aimed at responding to the aspirations of the Arab Maghreb peoples; and out of their desire to put into practice all the treaties and agreements concluded between the two fraternal countries in all their aims and measures, a matter which gives a new strong momentum to the varied relations between them.

According to the August directives of the two heads of state, the Algerian and Moroccan delegations met under the chairmanship of Boualem Bessaieh, minister of foreign affairs, for the Algerian side; and Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, for the Moroccan Side. They agreed on the following:

First, to work toward providing all the suitable conditions for consolidating bilateral cooperation and activating all the agreements and treaties contracted between the two countries and securing their implementation.

Second, to ratify the recommendations and proposals included in the minutes of the two subcommittees for economic, cultural and social cooperation, which were signed 6 October 1988 in Rabat and Algiers.

Third, to ratify the principle of establishing a supreme joint committee for economic, cultural, social, and technical cooperation aimed at advancing and consolidating cooperation between the two countries on the basis of mutual interests. The necessary legal measures for this purpose should be taken.

Fourth, to form a joint company to study the construction of a gas pipeline for transporting Algerian natural gas to Europe and to supply the Moroccan market.

Fifth, to convene the supreme joint committee in Rabat during March 1989.

On concluding their talks, the two leaders, President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II, expressed their satisfaction with the spirit of understanding and optimism which prevailed at this meeting which took into consideration the convocation of a second Maghreb summit in Marrakech as a historic event with civilized, political, and economic dimensions reflecting the apsirations of region's peoples.

Defense Official Meets With Algerian Counterpart

LD0902114189 Algiers APS in English 1050 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Ifrane, 9 Feb (APS)—Tete-a-tete talks took place on Wednesday [8 February] in Ifrane between General Mustapha Cheloufi, general secretary of the National Defense Ministry and General Mohamed Echahbar, secretary general of the Administration of the Moroccan Defense.

Talks were centered on bilateral relations and on the reinforcement of fraternity and cooperation links between the two countries.

Filali Lauds Saudi Role in Inter-Arab Relations

LD0802150789 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Jeddah, Feb. 8 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali has paid tribute to Saudi Arabia's role in improving inter-Arab relations and settling marginal problems among Arab states.

In an interview published Tuesday by Saudi daily "AL-MADINAH", Filali said "Saudi Arabia's constant policy under the leadership of custodian of the two holy mosques is based on the principle of consolidating Arab solidarity and improving relations among brothers so the Arab world could have constructive positions, especially in the particular circumstances the Arab nation is going through".

He said "we rejoice here in Morocco at the role played by custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah in the re-establishment of relations between Rabat and Damascus".

The Moroccan minister said "we are certain that the (Saudi) Kingdom continues its efforts of reconciliation and we hope its efforts be once again crowned with success".

Concerning Moroccan-Saudi relations, Filali said they were "excellent" and that the two countries are in "constant" concertation "at the highest level".

On the Sahara question, Filali reiterated Morocco's position in favour of a referendum in the Sahara. "The right solution consists of calling on the inhabitants of this region to express, in all freedom, their opinion concerning their future", he said.

As to Moroccan-Algerian relations, Filali said there exists "a common determination on both countries' part to develop their bilateral relations and their cooperation in all areas".

He added that the second Maghreban summit slated for February 15 through 17 in Marrakech, will know the edification of the Maghreb and the beginning of an encompassing cooperation at the service of the region's peoples.

Sudan

Minister Reveals 'Secret' Arens-Garang Meeting

JN0902080089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Al-Dammam, 9 Feb (WAKH)—'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudanese economy and foreign trade minister, has revealed that a secret meeting took place on Sudanese territory last month between Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and rebel leader John Garang.

In a statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-YAWM published today, the Sudanese minister said this meeting was held in an area on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border and was meant to prepare for more military operations against the Sudanese Army. He pointed out that the Sudanese Government learned about the meeting and that the Constituent Assembly had discussed it, especially since the rebel leaders visit Tel Aviv regularly to receive instructions in order to kindle and explode the situation in southern Sudan in the next few months.

The Sudanese economy and foreign trade minister accused several parties—which he failed to name and which he said have interests in southern Sudan—of providing all that the rebels need in terms of weapons, ammunition, and military capabilities and equipment from the most sophisticated production of the world's war factories.

'Abdallah Ahmad urged the Arab world to tackle the rebel issue in southern Sudan with further seriousness and concern and to obtain all the necessary up-to-date information on it so that the Arab world will not be surprised one day by what he called another southern Lebanon in southern Sudan. The Israeli enemy will besiege the Arabs through these two very sensitive positions in Asia and Africa, he added.

Army Spokesman Says Torit Situation 'Improved'

EA0802102289 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] An official spokesman for the Armed Forces says the situation at Torit has eased. H.E. [His Excellency—not further identified] said the Torit garrison commander sent two letters at the end of last week, confirming that the situation has improved. The commander also confirmed that food supplies and ammunition had been received, thanks to air drops and other arrangements made by the General Command last week.

The spokesman said the garrison commander had stated in his message that the morale of the officers and noncommissioned officers at Torit was very high. He said the reports of the fall of Torit to the outlaws, published by some daily newspapers, were intended to undermine the Armed Forces' morale.

H.E. pointed to the sacrifices made by the soldiers at Al-Nasir Army garrison and their refusal to surrender despite their disadvantages in men, materiel, and weaponry.

SPLA Spokesman Denies Torit Attack

EA0802101489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA today expressed surprise and denied Khartoum's claims carried over yesterday's BBC Focus on Africa that SPLA forces had attacked Torit.

The spokesman dismissed the claims as fiction in bad taste, fabricated by Khartoum's General Headquarters to divert public attention from their disastrous defeat in Nasir by claiming that the SPLA had attacked Torit and failed. The regime is, in effect, fabricating a military victory made in Khartoum out of a situation where no battle took place at all. The regime thus hopes that the public will forget the real defeat in Nasir and remember only their fictitious victory in Torit.

Such a lie is an insult to their own soldiers in Torit since their soldiers and their commanders know that except for routine shelling and a skirmish, no battle took place. It is also ingratitude to a former garrison commander, who defended Nasir to the last bullet for 143 days with promises and promises of rescue on the way but no real rescue.

Colonel Mahjub, the former garrison commander of Nasir himself, now a prisoner in the hands of the SPLA, speaks with tears about how the Sadiq-Turabi government lied to him and let him down for 143 days and about Khartoum's lie that he made a tactical evacuation of Nasir.

How long will the Sadiq-Turabi government lie to the Sudanese people and to their own soldiers, who are paying with their precious blood for the Sadiq-Turabi refusal of peace? Let us forget about Khartoum's fictitious battle for Torit. The SPLA knows where and when to fight next and when it does, it will be by storm as in Nasir, Kurmuk, Pibor, Kapoeta, Qaysan and other places. Instead let us listen to Col Mahjub himself talk about a real battle and a real defeat in Nasir.

Foreign Ministry Official Views Developments

PM0802161389 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 6 Feb 89 pp 16-17

[Interview with Taj al-Din Muhammad Salih, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Abu Bakr al-Siddiq al-Sharif; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sharif] If the popular reaction to the Nationalist [as published] Unionist Party leader's initiative, represented by his agreement with John Garang to establish peace in the south, was the huge popular satisfaction reflected by the warm welcome accorded to him upon his arrival from Addis Ababa, then the Islamic Front's reservations and the Ummah Party's delay in imparting impetus to the initiative raise questions about how serious the decisionmakers in the north are about the acceptance of the south's concessions.

[Salih] Actually the opposite is the case: I firmly believe that all influential politicians are serious in responding to the achievement of peace. That peace, if it is destined to be achieved, will only be achieved through the constitutional conference. That ugly war, which has continued for 3 decades, requires an intensive study in which all influential Sudanese politicians will take part. This is why our party's initiative was presented to all parties, which endorsed it. Acceptance was also expressed by our people. They emphasized their desire for peace—a desire no smaller than their desire to protect their gains when they launched their sweeping uprising against the former regime.

[Al-Sharif] What about the Islamic Front's reservations?

[Salih] The Front voiced reservations about the freezing of the September laws. But Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi reached an agreement with the Islamic Front stipulating that efforts be united to convene the constitutional conference in order to air all the reservations at the negotiating table. This is why the Front decided to withdraw its reservations and work actively to prepare for the constitutional conference.

[Al-Sharif] Was a decision made in this regard or was the exchange of views enough?

[Salih] In fact, contrary to our expectations, no decision was made. But the prime minister stated that and the Front did not deny what was said in his statement. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Do you believe that the Sudanese [People's] Liberation Movement [SPLM] is eager to end the war?

[Salih] Not only do I believe so, I actually rely on the recent letter which the SPLM sent to the Sudanese Government emphasizing that it has given the Nationalist [as published] Unionist Party and its leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani its full confidence and complete authority to reach an agreement with the various Sudanese groups and political parties over the committees' formation and structure, that is, in terms of proportionate representation. I believe that this proves the SPLM's seriousness and nonopposition to working toward achieving the desired peace. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Did the unity agreement with Libya and the resultant controversy have any impact on the peace initiative?

[Salih] The controversy you mention took place in the north of the country only and perhaps in some neighboring states. In this context, the problem for some of our neighbors is that they do not know how Sudanese decisions are made. In fact what happened between us and fraternal Libya was nothing more than the initiation of dialogue to reach a plan on unity.

After a great deal of argument the dialogue has proved that our people have their justifications for the impossibility of establishing immediate unity with Libya at this particular time. Obviously this does not negate or belittle our complete belief that unity is a strategic objective, but its achievement requires objective conditions, which are not yet complete.

[Al-Sharif] Did you convince Libya of your view?

[Salih] What we Sudanese agreed on remains between us. As for the brothers in Libya, they have agreed that the element of timing and current issues do not favor raising the unity issue between us.

[Al-Sharif] Has the United States retreated from supporting Sudan since Ja'far al-Numayri's absence?

[Salih] Some areas have witnessed a retreat.

[Al-Sharif] And the reason?

[Salih] At the official level, the Americans have not stated any reasons. Any attempt to determine the reason would be nothing more than an interpretation or analysis. These matters cannot be subjected to conclusions or speculation alone. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Denies BBC Resignation Report

EA0802091189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Feb (SUNA)—The defence minister, Gen (rtd) 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, denied the news reports, carried by local newspapers and diffused by the BBC, that he has submitted his resignation. In a press statement here today, he said the news reports on his resignation were groundless and that he has no intention to submit his resignation and will never think to resign in such cirmustances the country is passing.

Gen Khalil criticised the BBC for reporting from local newspapers without resorting to the official sources, arguing that broadcast of these news reports is aimed at creating a kind of disturbances.

Government Defaults on U.S. Wheat Payments

EA0802095189 Khartoum SUNA English 1630 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Feb (SUNA)—Premier Sadiq al-Mahdi attributed reduction of U.S. wheat exports to the Sudan to reasons related to non-payment by the Sudan of its wheat arrears to the U.S. In a press statement here Tuesday, the premier said Sudan proposed to the U.S party to reschedule these arrears but, he added, no agreement was reached to this effect.

On the other hand, the prime minister said peace efforts are under way, pointing out some preparations made in this sphere. The premier also said Sudan's relations with Arab countries is very normal and that his visit to Egypt, within the framework of the brotherhood charter, was scheduled to start the 4th of next March.

Sudan Airways Agrees To Make Flights to Jeddah

EA0402074489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic

(Text) Mr 'Abd al-Rasul al-Nur, governor of Kurdufan Region, has announced that it has been agreed to establish an air link between Al-Ubayyid [capital of northern Kurdufan] and Saudi Arabia. In this connection, Sudan Airways has agreed to make flights from Al-Ubayyid to Jeddah and back. The governor added that the regional government would strive to link the Kurdufan Region to all Arab and African states.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Finance Ministers Hold Talks in Riyadh

LD0802094389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 8 Feb (SPA)—The GCC ministers of finance and the economy arrived in Riyadh this morning to attend the 21st session of the Finance and Economic and Cooperation Committee due to be held later.

The following have arrived: Ahmad Hamid al-Ta'ir, UAE minister of state for financial and industrial affairs; Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, Bahraini finance and national economy minister; Ibrahim ibn Hamud al-Sabh, secretary general of the Omani Higher Committee of Congresses; Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi, Kuwaiti finance minister; and Shaykh 'Abd Al 'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari finance and oil minister. [passage omitted]

21st Session Concludes Work

LD0802152789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1456 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Feb (SPA)—Their excellencies the GCC ministers of finance and national economy this afternoon concluded the 21st session of the GCC Finance and Economic Cooperation Committee at the premises of the GCC General Secretariat.

Kuwait

Oil Minister Updates Tanker Registration Policy

LD0902095789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0815 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Paris, Feb 9 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi said that Kuwait is ready to end the registration of its oil tankers in the United States, the Soviet Union, and Britain as soon as safety of navigation in the Gulf waters is guaranteed.

Shaykh 'Ali said to AL-WATAN AL-ARABI magazine, to be published here Friday, that Kuwait has "hoisted again Kuwaiti flag over five ships and we hope that we can take further steps in this regard."

Kuwait two years ago had chartered three Soviet tankers and registered 11 Kuwaiti tankers in the US and another three in Britain due to the successive attacks on Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf waters as a result of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

In an interview conducted by chief editor of AL-WATAN AL-ARABI magazine, Shaykh 'Ali said that the Kuwaiti oil policy progressed since the establishment of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) in 1980.

On Kuwait's oil production, the Kuwaiti minister said that Kuwait is now producing oil in the US, the North Sea, Indonesia and soon in the Congo.

The Kuwaiti oil official said Kuwait has made major alterations in the local industry, since it invested what is worth 5000 million dollars during the past 4-5 years in renovating the oil refineries in the country.

The refineries produce 650,000 barrels of refined oil per day, which will be in demand in the 90's.

Shaykh 'Ali talked about the oil refinery in Mina 'Abdallah that was installed in 1952 and said that the production capacity of this refinery was 60,000-70,000 barrels per day.

Mina 'Abdallah oil refinery, the renovation of which has cost 2000 million dollars, is now producing 200,000 barrels per day.

Shaykh 'Ali noted that by the beginning of next year, 1990, Kuwait will produce 600,000 tons of petroleum coke.

ARAB TIMES on Dumas Visit, Lebanon 'Crisis'

JN0802154489 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 7 Feb 89 p 1

[By Jadranka Porter]

[Text] France yesterday pledged to join forces with an Arab League team headed by Kuwait in an effort to help end the Lebanese crisis.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told reporters upon arrival in Kuwait yesterday that he had full confidence in Kuwait's diplomatic ability to conduct the difficult negotiations.

"We are pleased with the choice the Arab League has made. The choice of Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as head of the committee is an additional guarnatee for the success of the team's efforts," said Dumas.

France will combine efforts with the Arab League team to help find a solution to problems besieging Lebanon, he added.

Shaykh Sabah heads a committee of six Arab foreign ministers given the task of reconciling factions in Lebanon. The committee held its first meeting in Tunis on Jan 30. Paris last week sent an envoy to Lebanon to discuss with different factions ways of pushing the Tunis dialogue forward.

Dumas was in Kuwait on a three-hour stop-over on his way from Tehran to Paris. He was to hold talks with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad centering on the Lebanese crisis.

He said he expected Shaykh Sabah to brief him on the latest develoments in efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis and to "broach the issue of the Mirage fighter plane sale to Kuwait."

Kuwait is seeking to further strengthen its Air Force and may buy fighter planes in addition to 40 F18s which are part of $1.9 billion arms deal concluded with the United States last year. France, with its Mirage 2000 fighter jets, is understood to be a strong contender.

Dumas described his visit to Tehran as useful. France is in the process of reviewing its relations with Iraq and Iran following the ceasefire last August, he said. The objective of his visit to Iran was to hear the Iranian point of view, he added.

Asked whether France reached an agreement with Tehran on the issue of $1 billion loan made to France in 1975 by the Shah, Dumas said the two sides had mapped out of procedure for further negotiations.

"This is a technical detail. We have examined the documents and devised a framework for further negotiations. It will take time to get to the bottom of this issue," said Dumas.

The French government repaid $630 million of the loan in 1986 while it was negotiating the release of the last three French hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups.

Saudi Arabia

Alleged Violation of OPEC Quota Denied

LD0802223289 Vienna OPECNA in English 1046 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Feb. 89 (OPECNA)—Saudi Arabia has denied a London press report alleging that it had violated its OPEC oil output level in January.

An official source at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources described the report as "baseless and fabricated."

He stressed that the Kingdom "respects its word and honours its commitments. And when it takes a decision, it announces it bravely."

The source asserted that Saudi oil production in January was actually below the figure allowed the country under the OPEC production agreement signed in Vienna in November 1988.

Yemen Arab Republic

Council Approves Budget, Ratifies Libya Accord

JN0802202689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The Consultative Council today continued its session under brother Speaker 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, member of the Standing Committee. The council discussed a report presented by the council's office and the financial affairs and accounting committee on the draft budget for fiscal 1989. The council unanimously approved the budget.

The council then heard a report by the Economic Affairs, Oil, and Mineral Resources Committee on the agreement signed between our government and the government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to establish a YAR-Libyan holding company. There was a lengthy debate on the agreement, which embodies the wise policy of our country.

Our nation seeks to strengthen aspects of brotherhood among the Arab countries, continue efforts to establish strong relations, entrench the bases of cooperation, and emphasize the importance of joint Arab cooperation in which it plays a prominent role on the pan-Arab and bilateral levels.

Our country plays a particularly prominent role in the economic field which has a special importance in developing Arab potentials to face the challenges obstructing the march of pan-Arab action. In light of all this, the agreement was approved by 88 members.

The members also approved the observations and the recommendations related to the agreement. Five members abstained from voting and four others voted against the agreement. Thus, the agreement won the required majority. [passage omitted]

Minutes of Joint Committee With Syria Approved

JN0802203189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting at 0900 today under Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Commitee.

After reviewing the decisions of the last session, the council discussed the items on its agenda, including the minutes of the joint meeting of the second session of the Joint Higher YAR-Syrian Committee and the agreement on information cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Following a lengthy debate, the council approved the minutes of the meeting and the agreement on information cooperation and referred them to further constitutional procedures. [passage omitted]

Libya's Al-Muntasir Arrives With Delegation

JN0802212289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a visit to our country heading a Libyan

delegation comprising the Libyan side to the meetings of the third session of the higher joint YAR-Libyan committee which will begin its work in Sanaa today.

The guest was welcomed at the airport by brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, chairman of the Central Planning Organ, and Standing Committee member; a number of brother cabinet ministers, Standing Committee members, and senior civic and military officials; brother 'Abd al-Wahhab Jahhash, our country's ambassador in Tripoli; and Maylud al-Jadid, acting secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa. [passage omitted]

During a short rest at the airport, brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, made a statement to SABA' News Agency saying: We are all happy over this visit to the land of our ancestors, the land of the Arab nation, hoping that we are taking a new serious step toward the attainment of the comprehensive Arab unity.

Brother 'Umar al-Muntasir added: There is no doubt that cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and the YAR is viewed as a basic brick in building the edifice of the unity which is to be based on cooperation and sound foundations with the aim of realizing the desired objective.

In his statement, brother 'Umar al-Muntasir went on to say: We hope and we are certain that we will be met with full responsiveness by our brothers and colleagues in the YAR. I am carrying with me the greetings of leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September Revolution, to the soil of the ancestors and to his brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and to all Yemeni brothers on our ancestors' territory.

Concluding his statement, brother 'Umar al-Muntasir said: We hope that the results of the efforts will be positive and that they will constitute a step forward to be realized through the cooperation that will be maintained with my friend and brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

The delegation accompanying brother Al-Muntasir comprises brother Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service; Mubarak al-Shamikh, secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport; Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of the General People's Committee for Education and Scientific Research; Ahmad Farhat Sharnanah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Trade; and Mustafa al-Zaydi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Health; Muhammad al-Madani al-Bukhari, secretary of the General People's Committee for Treasury; Dr Rajab Miftah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Information; Miftah Muhammad Ku'aybah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Marine Wealth; and Ma'tuq 'Ali Ma'tuq, secretary of the General People's Committee for Vocational Training; and 'Ali al-Sha'iri, secretary of the General People's Committee for Mass Mobilization and Revolutionary Guidance.

The guest is being accompanied during his visit to our country by an escort mission led by brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and Standing Committee member.

The minutes of the preparatory committee which prepared for the third session of the higher joint YAR-Libyan committee which will begin its meetings in Sanaa today were signed at the Central Planning Organ today.

The minutes contain a number of points and issues that specify and regulate the aspects of bilateral cooperation in the fields of investment, trade, oil, planning, industry, agriculture, communications, transport, health, youth and sports affairs, culture and information, vocational training, and education.

The minutes were signed on our country's side by brother Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade. As for the Libyan side, the minutes were signed by brother Dr Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The signing ceremony was attended by brother 'Abd al-Wahhab Jahhash, our country's ambassador in Tripoli; Muhyi al-Din al-Dabbi, under secretary of the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade for the economic sector; and the members of the two sides to the committee meetings.

'Abd al-Ghani Addresses Group

JN0902112089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The third session of the higher YAR-Libyan committee, which is made up of our country's Council of Ministers and the General People's Committee in sisterly Libya, began in Sanaa this evening under the chairmanship of brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, and 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

At the beginning of the first round of talks, Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani delivered a speech in which he said: Brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, brother members of the General People's Committee, all attending brothers: God's peace and blessings be upon you. It pleases me at the outset of the higher YAR-Libyan committee's meetings to welcome you in Yemen, your first homeland. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani added: While we appreciate the efforts you are exerting in our homeland, sisterly Libya, for the sake of its development and might and for the prosperity and strength of the steadfast Libyan Arab people, who forged heroic deeds through their proud steadfastness against all challenges and against losing wagers on their leadership and homeland, we stress to you on this occasion, which combines us on the land of Arabism and the refuge to which hearts retreat, that we stand on your side—leadership, government, and people—against all plots, challenges, and blatant interference against the land and dignity of the people of sisterly Libya. This is dictated by our faith in our Arabism and by our common destiny.

He added: I am confident that no matter how much the deluded, deceived, and grudge-bearers try, they will not be able to undermine the position of Libya—land, leadership, and people—and its heroic stands, as was the case in the near and far past. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Umar al-Muntasir then delivered a speech which he began by greeting the prime minister and the members of our country's delegation to the talks. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee added: We are not here to argue, negotiate, or bargain; the main purpose of our meetings is to make a step, even a small one, that paves the way for an integration that is conducive to the inevitable step of reuniting this nation, which the others are seeking to fragment. Any progress we achieve will pave the way for a new type of development that returns us to our first march on which we grew up and which was ordained for us by God. It is the united Arab nation that is struggling for right and justice and that is fighting for the sake of God.

Concluding, brother 'Umar al-Muntasir said: In view of these facts and guided by the leaders of our two countries, we can state that our meetings constitute a step toward an integrated development trend that takes into consideration all facts in the Arab homeland in general and in our two countries in particular. Our joint security and accomplishments, which are threatened by the Zionist enemy and the imperialist bloc, should be one of our concerns.

Our relations with others should also be the object of this unionist trend in order to protect our gains and accomplishments which should reflect the requirements dictated by the circumstances of the age. Our resources should be for our own welfare and citizen regardless of his country or place of residence. [passage omitted]

The two sides then reviewed a number of topics related to the promotion of brotherly cooperation in the various fields in the interest of the Arab people in the two sisterly countries and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Meets With UN Delegates in New York

JN0902085589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] New York, 9 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here yesterday with a number of delegates of the UN and Security Council member states. An Iraqi spokesman said Tariq 'Aziz held meetings with U.S. delegate Vernon Walters, China's delegate Li Luye, Britain's delegate Crespin Tickell, and a number of nonaligned delegates who are members of the Security Council.

The spokesman said that these meetings reviewed the progress of previous efforts on the Iraq-Iran negotiations to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 which calls for ending the war between Iran and Iraq.

Also during the talks, delegates of these states were briefed on the visit by Jan Eliasson, personal representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Issues of mutual interest were also discussed. During their meetings with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the delegates lauded Iraq's initiative to release a number of ill and wounded Iranian POW's.

Tariq 'Aziz arrived in New York last Tuesday night. He is expected to meet with the UN secretary general later today.

Security Council Renews UNIIMOG Mandate

JN0802174889 Baghdad INA in English 1654 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] United Nations, Feb. 8, INA—The Security Council today renewed the mandate of the United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) for a period of seven months and 22 days-until Sept. 30.

The Council took this action by unanimously adopting a resolution that called upon the parties concerned "to implement immediately Security Council Resolution 598," which calls for a negotiated settlement of all aspects of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

The resolution, adopted without debate, also requested U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to submit at the end of the period of the new mandate, a report on the developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement Resolution 598.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in New York last night for a new round of talks with the secretary-general on the ongoing effort to implement the resolution. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is expected to arrive in town tomorrow.

Gorbachev Sends President 'Thank-You Cable'

JN0702103689 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] President Leader Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Following is the text of the cable:

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, chairman of the RCC and president of Iraq, in the name of the Soviet leadership and on behalf of the Soviet people, I express to your person and to Iraq—leadership and people—our deep gratitude for the sympathy and the fair, swift, and ample assistance provided by Iraq after the tragic earthquake in the Armenian SSR.

We in the Soviet Union highly appreciate this noble and humane sympathy displayed by the friendly Iraqi people, who have themselves suffered great and many difficulties. We consider this assistance further proof of the strength of friendship and cooperation between our two peoples and countries. The international wave of sympathy with us following the Armenian tragedy has clearly shown that there is a possibility for sincere international dealing in the search for solutions to the world's most urgent questions and for the entrenchment of security and development issues that face mankind.

I am confident that to continue improving and strengthening Soviet-Iraqi relations in all fields, which is in the interest of our two peoples, will serve to strengthen and deepen the positive changes witnessed by the contemporary world.

[Signed] Mikhail Gorbachev.

Reportage on Visit of Soviet Petroleum Minister

Arrives, Makes Statement

JN0502203089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—Vasiliy Dinkov, Soviet minister of petroleum industry and head of the Soviet side to the meetings of the 18th session of the Iraqi-Soviet joint committee for economic, trade, technical, and scientific cooperation, arrived here this evening. The meetings will start tomorrow at the ministerial level.

The work of the subcommittees stemming from the joint committee began here last week to prepare for the official meetings of the committee, which will discuss cooperation between the two countries and the spheres of such cooperation in the areas of oil industry, irrigation, energy, trade, scientific research, and training of scientific and technical cadres.

In a statement to INA, he said: We attach special importance to cooperation with Iraq, and we view meetings with Iraqi officials as a continuation and growth of our relations in all areas.

The Soviet minister said that the meetings of the Iraqi-Soviet joint committee following the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and the prevailing peace will further promote the two sides' joint action on topics listed on their agenda to achieve sound bilateral cooperation in various areas. He pointed out that due to the new Soviet trends outlined by President Gorbachev to bolster the policy of openness and cooperation with friendly countries, including Iraq, will open new horizons of serious cooperation in line with the ambitions of the leaders of the two countries.

The Soviet minister was received at the airport by 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, oil minister and head of the Iraqi side to the meetings of the joint committee; a number of officials at the ministries that are members of the committee; and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Attends Cooperation Talks

JN0602151689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Meetings of the 18th session of the Iraqi-Soviet joint standing committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation began here today.

The Iraqi side to the meetings was led by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi, while the Soviet side was led by Vasiliy Dinkov, minister of petroleum industry. In an opening speech, Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim said the current session is important because it is being held after the achievement of victory and peace. Meanwhile, Iraq is witnessing a large construction phase in various fields, foremost being the completion of projects that had been delayed because of the war. He added: Iraq is trying to expand cooperation with the Soviet Union in the trade, economic, industrial, scientific, technical, and oil fields to serve the interests of both friendly peoples.

In a similar speech, Vasiliy Dinkov, Soviet minister of petroleum industry, lauded the historic friendship between Iraq and the Soviet Union. This relationship has affirmed its solidity in recent years and derives its continuity from a joint understanding of national and international issues and from the legitimate mutual interests of both countries. He voiced gratitude for and appreciation of the Iraqi leadership for its humanitarian aid to the victims of the recent earthquakes, which hit the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic.

He said: This aid proves the sincere, mutual sentiments between the two peoples. He expressed his country's support for Iraq's stand calling for ending the war. He said: The Iraqi leadership's decision to accept a cease-fire expresses its wisdom. He pointed to his country's satisfaction with the development of relations between the two countries and with results in the oil, industrial, agricultural, irrigation, and scientific fields.

It was decided during the meeting that the eight technical committees emanating from the Iraqi-Soviet joint standing committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation, will continue to meet and attain final results to prepare the minutes to be signed by the chairmen of both sides. It is noteworthy that the committees on energy, oil, gas, industrial projects, irrigation, agriculture, and cadre training have concluded their work and reached bilateral agreements in these fields. It is hoped the other committees will accomplish their work later this week.

Attending the committee's meetings on the Iraqi side were the Oil Ministry undersecretary, the committee's deputy chairman, and representatives from the Ministries of Trade, Industry and Military Industrialization, Planning, Oil, Transport and Communications, Agriculture and Irrigation, Finance, and Housing and Reconstruction.

They were attended on the Soviet side by the committee's deputy chairman; under secretaries [as received] of the Ministries of Foreign Economic Relations, Petroleum Industry, Power and Electrification, and Construction of Petroleum and Gas Industry Enterprises as well as the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad and a number of experts and technicians in some Soviet establishments.

Confers With Finance Minister

JN0602202989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1922 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Finance Minister Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif met here this evening with Vasiliy Dinkov, Soviet minister of petroleum and head of the Soviet side to the joint [Iraqi-Soviet] committee, and his accompanying delegation. They discussed bilateral financial and economic issues.

Meets With Ramadan

JN0702151089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Vasiliy Dinkov, Soviet minister of petroleum and head of the Soviet side to the joint Iraqi-Soviet committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation, and his delegation.

They discussed bilateral relations, expressed satisfaction with their progress, and affirmed a mutual desire to find new fields to contribute toward promoting relations and expanding industrial, irrigational, trade, and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan praised the results of the joint Iraqi-Soviet committee meetings in its 18th session which consisted of signing agreements on the eight sub-committees stemming from it. He affirmed that

these results reflect the interest of the two countries in finding new spheres for cooperation, strengthening the friendship and cooperation relations, and continuing their development.

The Soviet minister praised the great development witnessed by Iraq. He affirmed the Soviet institutions' readiness to cooperate in many and varied ways with the Iraqi institutions to contribute toward the implementation of the development projects in Iraq.

The meeting was attended by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi, head of the Iraqi side to the joint Iraqi-Soviet committee, and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Meets Trade Minister

JN0702181789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here today with Vasiliy Dinkov, Soviet minister of petroleum industry, and his delegation. They discussed means of bolstering the economic, trade, and technical relations between the two countries.

Lays Foundation Stone

JN0702184189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, and Vasiliy Dinkov, Soviet minister of petroleum industry, today laid the foundation stone for the biggest thermal station in Iraq. The station's power is 1260 megawatt and its cost is 231 million Iraqi dinars.

A ceremony was held at the site of the project. It was attended by the under secretaries of the ministry of industry and military industrialization, the under secretaries of the Soviet ministries of foreign economic relations, petroleum, and power and electrification, and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Discusses Oil With Counterpart

JN0702202089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—In a meeting he held this evening with Soviet Petroleum Minister Vasiliy Dinkov, Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim discussed the situation of the oil market and the developments in the dialogue between the OPEC and the oil producers outside the organization, which attempts to maintain the official price levels.

The Soviet official expressed his country's readiness to cooperate fully with OPEC to achieve this aim. He said that his country is now trying to contribute to realizing those common aims, especially since it, for the first time, sent observers to attend the meetings held in London on 26 January 1986 at the level of experts between OPEC and a number of oil producing countries outside the cartel.

Sudanese Ummah Party Team Arrives 7 Feb

JN0702115889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, member of the Sudanese Ummah Party Political Bureau, arrived here today heading a delegation on a visit to Iraq that will last for several days.

Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im expressed his happiness for visiting Iraq. He said: This visit comes after the great victory achieved by the Iraqi people. This victory has enhanced the Arab nation's values and preserved its noble objectives.

In a statement to INA, he added: The Ummah Party seeks to strengthen its relations with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] in the interest of the Arab nation's glory and progress.

The delegation was received by Hasan 'Ali, member of the ASBP Regional Command.

Meets With Ba'th Party

JN0702164789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—The talks between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] and the Sudanese Ummah Party began at the Regional Command headquarters in Baghdad this morning.

The ASBP side was headed by Hasan 'Ali, member of the party's Regional Command, and the Ummah Party side by Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, the party's Political Bureau member.

During the talks, Hasan 'Ali reviewed the militant experience of the ASBP in Iraq in the various fields and its balanced dealings with political changes on the Arab and international scenes.

Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im praised Iraq's pan-Arab stands, especially its support and assistance for Sudan in the economic and military fields. He stressed the Ummah Party's desire to promote its relations with the ASBP in all fields to consolidate common Arab action.

It was agreed to form a committee from the two parties to prepare a protocol of cooperation between them.

The Sudanese Ummah Party delegation arrived in Baghdad last night on a 4-day official visit to Iraq.

Foreign Ministry Responds to Schifter Report

TA0902083289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 89 p 7

["Excerpts" of the "Response of the Israel Foreign Ministry"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department Report's references to human rights in the territories did not, unfortunately, give full consideration to the actions of local extremist elements and the major dilemmas which these cause for Israel, such as:

—violent attacks by PLO-affiliated or Islamic fundamentalist radicals who have used massive stone barrages, Molotov cocktail firebombs, and even firearms against Jews and Arabs;

—the burning of planted forests, pastureland and grazing areas, and natural woodlands by arsonists;

—the use of hospitals as refuge for uninjured rioters;

—the use of ambulances as screens for transporting violent agitators;

—pupils who are forced by masked youngsters to leave the schools and participate in riots.

Since the Six Day War of 1967, a war that was fought for its very survival, Israel has exerted efforts in numerous areas to improve the living standards of the local Arab inhabitants. With the signing of the Camp David Accords, Israel, moreover, agreed to an interim phase of autonomy. Unfortunately, extremist pressures from the PLO and other Arab rejectionists undermined prospects.

The disturbances since December 1987 have posed serious problems and challenges for Israel, which is duty-bound to take all necessary measures to restore calm and stability. The steps taken by Israel against extremist elements who promote violence and turmoil are fully in keeping with international law.

Israel has not been facing peaceful demonstrations of placard-carrying, law-abiding citizens. The disturbances in Judaea-Samaria and the Gaza District have witnessed massive stonings of persons and moving vehicles, attacks with slings, iron bars, chains, knives, and home-fashioned lethal weapons of all types. Increasingly, Molotov cocktails have been used, and the lethal effects of this weapon were seen in the October 30 firebomb attack on a public bus in Jericho, in which a mother and her three children were burned to death.

Such violence is meant to kill, and twelve Israelis have lost their lives as a result. That more Israelis have not died has not been due to lack of trying by the PLO-affiliated and Islamic fundamentalist extremists: since the outbreak of the disturbances in December'87, more than 1,280 Israelis—about 830 soldiers and 450 civilians—have been injured, some of them critically.

Arabs, too, have been the victims of extremist violence. Since December 1987, 66 Palestinians were murdered and more than 100 were wounded because they did not comply with PLO and Islamic fundamentalist demands.

The principles of restraint and gradual response are applied. Tear gas of the standard type employed by police throughout the world is used to control riots, and Israeli orders bar its use in closed structures; at times, during a riot, some of the tear gas used outside may penetrate buildings—that effect, however, is unintentional. Live bullets are fired only as a last resort, in life-threatening situations; according to the exigencies, rubber or plastic bullets may be used first.

The orders under which Israeli security personnel operate are explicit and well-known to every soldier in the field. A soldier who is suspected of improper or excessive use of force is subject to military trial and punishment. While some excesses have occurred, these have been unacceptable departures from policy, and have been dealt with accordingly.

Those residents of the territories who are suspected of having committed security offences are dealt with in full accordance with international law and the humanitarian provisions of the Geneva Conventions...

The access which the residents of the territories have to the Israeli legal system—even to the highest court in the land, the Israel Supreme Court—is unprecedented in international practice. Such access serves as a unique safeguard of the rule of law.

Trials for security offences are heard before a military court, headed by a civilian judge (a practice that does not exist in other countries) who is there to ensure that due process is maintained. The trials are held in accordance with the procedures and rules of evidence obtaining in the courts of common law in western countries. Convictions in such trials must be based on evidence, and cannot be based on a confession alone...

Methods for questioning suspects are the same as those applied in other democratic countries. Since October 1987, questioning procedures have been more strictly defined and regulated.

The Israeli authorities make every effort to provide prisoners with appropriate conditions... In deference to the inmates' dietary preferences, meals are prepared by cooks chosen from among the inmates. A doctor and medical staff are present at every facility... Family visits are permitted, representatives of the International Red Cross are entitled to inspect all detention facilities, and do so regularly; journalists have also been given access.

The decision to place certain residents of the territories under administrative detention is taken because of the danger they pose to the lives and safety of others, and because of their involvement in violence-related acts. Such detention is in full accordance with Article 78 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The decision to expel particular agitators or terrorists was not taken arbitrarily or lightly. Expulsion orders have rarely been issued; they have been carried out only in extreme cases where other measures have not succeeded in stopping hostile activity.

Those expelled were neither innocent activists nor peaceful demonstrators, but individuals prominent in instigating and perpetrating violence-related acts. Many of those expelled were leaders of local PLO groups, and some even bear direct responsibility for acts of terror and murder committed under PLO orders.

Among those expelled were several who were tried and convicted of terrorism, and who were later released from prison as a result of the 1985 prisoner exchange with the PLO Jibril faction; though, as a condition of their release, these convicts committed themselves to refrain from all terrorist activities, they afterwards disregarded this pledge...

The demolition of a structure is one of the security measures which, according to the Fourth Geneva Convention, is permitted under international law when demanded by imperative military considerations. Given its nature and the fact that individuals other than the security offender can be affected by this sanction, it has been employed only in very exceptional circumstances as dictated by compelling security requirements.

...The Supreme Court has set careful guidelines for the application of this measure. In one such case, after an Israeli woman was killed when her car was stoned, an order was issued by the Israeli authorities to seal the houses of those responsible. In its examination of the order, the Court wrote that although "as a consequence of it, members of the families of the suspects... are likely to suffer... the sanction... is surely not for the purpose of punishing them, but for the purpose of deterring those who disturb the order, and who by their conduct cause serious and fatal injuries to others who are also innocent."

Government and non-governmental hospitals in Judaea-Samaria and the Gaza District have continued to function over the last few months. Patients suffering from illness or injury are treated in these hospitals or are referred to Israeli hospitals on the basis of medical needs.

The IDF avoids entering hospitals. On those few occasions when it had to enter to apprehend rioters who had taken refuge in the medical facilities and even donned medical gowns, the IDF action was taken in the presence of a senior officer and under his orders. Force was used only to subdue individuals who resisted arrest, and not against innocent hospital patients.

...Bona fide trade union activity in Judaea-Samaria and the Gaza District faces no restriction or limitation.

Within the context of massive human rights abuse throughout the Arab world, the special focus on Israel takes the issue entirely out of perspective...

Other countries of the Middle East lack the most basic elements of human rights—freedom of speech, freedom of the press, free elections, equality for women, freedom of religion, freedom of association—and opponents, instead of facing television cameras, face execution. These countries do not have to defend themselves against self-declared foes who continue to aim for their demise. Yet, these nations do not draw the enormous degree of attention that Israel receives for measures taken in defense of its security needs and in accordance with international law.

IDF Statement on Report

TA0902083889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by defense reporter Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In Israel, the IDF Spokesman's Office released an official nine-point statement yesterday addressing some of the major points made in the U.S. State Department report, while Defence Ministry sources said last night the report had been received, and the defence establishment would respond once it had been studied.

Following is the complete text of the IDF statement:

Israel is a democratic country which places human rights as a fundamental principle guiding its behaviour. We have no interest in squabbling with the report's authors. The report examines the acts of state and not the circumstances surrounding the riots by local residents.

—Deaths of local residents: Every fatality involving a resident of the territories and resulting from IDF activities is investigated by the Military Police. Every such file is then passed on to the office of the judge advocate-general. In every instance where evidence exists of violations, legal steps are taken.

—Trial of Palestinian rioters: The trials are carried out openly according to the rules of evidence accepted in Israel and the territories. In the course of the trials the rights of the accused are protected.

—Rules for opening fire: The open-fire rules for IDF soldiers were formulated taking into account a concern for human life. Soldiers are permitted to open fire with live ammunition only when their lives are in

danger. The use of plastic bullets to disperse violence is according to detailed guidelines approved by the judge advocate-general and the Justice Ministry.

—Demolition and sealing of houses: This punishment is enacted as an extraordinary sanction selectively against people involved in hostile terrorist activities. In every case the severity of both the offence and the sanction are weighed against humanitarian considerations with respect to the family.

—Administrative detention: The IDF arrests persons for security reasons only and not because of political activity. There is judicial review of every administrative detention through the military justice system and the issue is subject to review of the High Court of Justice. Every incident is checked on its own merits. The number of administrative detainees has fallen significantly.

—Trial of soldiers for improper behaviour: Hundreds of soldiers have been tried in disciplinary hearings by their commanding officers, and 50 have been court-martialled by military tribunals for deviating from the IDF's orders during service in the territories. The soldiers have been confronted with provocations and humiliations which soldiers are usually not subjected to.

—Instruction to soldiers before serving in the territories: Tens of thousands of soldiers have served in the territories in the last year. The soldiers pass professional and individual briefings on the military activity with emphasis given moral and educational considerations.

—Freedom of the press: Full and free coverage of the events in the territories exists within operational constraints for both the international and Israeli media. We know of no other example in the world today in which such a high concentration of reporters has been engaged in close coverage for such a long period of time.

—International organizations: The International Red Cross, Amnesty International, and other human rights organizations in Israel and abroad are in constant contact with the IDF and the defence apparatus, including access to detention facilities and reports on incidents according to their request.

Peres' 'Tepid Defense'

TA0802183589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres this afternoon told the American Jewish Committee that he does not know of any new Israeli peace plan that Prime Minister Shamir will present to President Bush when he visits the United States next month. Peres spoke mainly about political issues at the meeting. Harley Braidman reports:

[Begin recording] [Braidman] There were no surprises, nor anything new, in what Vice Premier Peres had to say. Referring to the Shamir-Arens peace plans, Peres made this comment:

[Peres] It is for me too early to admit that we have proposals of the prime minister and proposals of the foreign minister. We don't have it yet. Now, if they will go to Washington with proposals, and those proposals will be approved by us—okay. [passage omitted]

[Braidman] As for the State Department's critical report on Israel's handling of the situation in the territories, Peres made a tepid defense.

[Peres] It's an area of twilight, where the dry law can hardly answer all the unexpected challenges, and the army is not necessarily a police force. I am sure about the army, that it is not a trigger-happy army, that they have to withstand terrible provocations. The intifadah [uprising] is not a military issue with political aspects; it is a political issue with military aspects. [end recording]

Jewish Settler's Death Sparks Riots, Criticism

Firebomb Thrown at Car

TA0802185989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] One man was injured by a firebomb that was thrown at his car on the Alfe Menashe road this evening. The car was gutted. Magen David intensive care ambulances arrived at the scene and treated the man. The security forces declared the area a closed military zone.

Two Arab women were slightly injured this evening in East Jerusalem. A short while ago, stones were thrown at two cars at the Al-Ram junction in the northern part of Jerusalem. The two women were treated and sent home. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that the police detained a man suspected of throwing the stones.

Settler Dies

TA0802200089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpt] An inhabitant of Alfe Menashe was killed this evening when a Molotov cocktail was thrown at his car. The car went up in flames and all resuscitation attempts failed. The security forces closed off the area. Our correspondent 'Amos Har'el reports from Samaria:

At about 1830 a firebomb was thrown at a Peugeot van driving, apparently, from Jaljuliyah to the settlement of Alfe Menashe. The incident occurred very close to the settlement, almost precisely at Hablah Junction where

'Ofra Moses was killed over 18 months ago. The firebomb probably hit the car from the direction of the hill overlooking the road. The car went up in flames and the driver was injured. Later he died. The victim was a resident of Alfe Menashe.

A large army and police presence quickly arrived at the scene. Police forensics experts are now examining the grounds, searching for the firebomb throwers' tracks and other clues. [passage omitted]

Settlers Go on 'Rampage'

TA0902094589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Joshua Brilliant and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Alfe Menashe—A resident of Alfe Menashe in the West Bank was killed last night when his van caught fire, but it was not immediately clear whether he was the target of a petrol bomb attack.

The incident set off a rampage by settlers from Ari'el who tried to enter an Arab village and stoned Arab cars, injuring at least three motorists. Troops surrounded other settlements and neighbouring villages to prevent further reprisals.

The settler killed was identified as Albert Jerasi, 38, a father of three. He was on his way home in a Peugeot van when it caught fire shortly before 7:00 p.m.

Initial reports said the vehicle had been hit by a petrol bomb, but police investigators were unable last night to establish the source of the blaze. The driver's window was open when the vehicle caught fire, but initial examinations failed to find glass fragments or other remnants of a petrol bomb, nor did they reveal a single focus for the blaze. One possibility being checked is that an unidentified object exploded in the car.

A man who rescued Jerasi from the vehicle said he found him gagging in thick smoke that enveloped the cabin. Jerasi was rushed to Me'ir Hospital in Kefar Sava, where doctors pronounced him dead.

The incident occurred near the entrance to Alfe Menashe, at a spot where the road to the settlement cuts through steep cliffs in the area of previous petrol-bomb attacks on cars from the town. The scene of the incident is minutes away from a permanent IDF checkpoint, which monitors all traffic on the road.

Troops rushed to the scene, closed off the area and declared it a closed military zone, preventing Alfe Menashe residents from leaving the town, and blocking attempts by settlers to enter neighbouring Arab villages. Qalqilyah was also declared a closed zone to prevent reprisals.

Curfews were reported in the neighbouring villages of Hablah, Ra's 'Atiyah and Khalij al-Tinah, as troops searched for suspects.

OC [Officer in Command] Central Command 'Amram Mitzna' arrived on the scene to oversee the army's operations and meet with settlers. Residents of Alfe Menashe held an emergency meeting to discuss retaliatory and protest action, and in a confrontation with Mitzna' charged that the army had failed to ensure their security.

Meanwhile, settlers from Ari'el on the Trans-Samaria highway tried to enter the neighbouring village of Bidiyya, charging that their cars were stoned on the highway, but they were blocked by troops.

At the Haris junction near Ari'el, settlers stoned Arab cars, injuring at least three passengers in one vehicle.

The car's windows were smashed, and one passenger had blood streaming from a wound near his eye. Passengers said they were attacked as they were returning from a visit with Jewish friends in Yafo, and that they could have been killed if it were not for the intervention of Border Police. Troops barred Ari'el residents from leaving the town to prevent further reprisals.

Jerasi is the third Alfe Menashe resident to be killed on the road to the settlement. In late 1987 Ofra Moses and her son Tal were killed, and several months later 'Edna and Moshe Regev were fire-bombed and injured on their way to the airport. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Death, Report

TA0802204889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening expressed his shock over the murder on the Alfe Menashe road. Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil brings the prime minister's comment:

[Begin Shamir recording] This is a very serious event: an attack that risked life for the third time at the same spot, I believe. It sheds special light on the report on human rights published in the United States yesterday. It again proves the lack of balance between this report and reality in Israel. [end recording]

Shamir Criticizes Schifter Report as 'Unbalanced'

TA0902075989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Dayan] Good morning, sir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Dayan] It seems that the most important issue this morning is the still unclear circumstances surrounding the death of Alfe Menashe resident Albert Jerasi. Do the facts that must have reached you make the picture any clearer?

[Shamir] I have as yet no details on the results of the investigation, but I do know that Jerasi is no longer alive, and I hear, understand, and feel that passions are running high among the residents in the area. My only regret is that the angry voices being raised near and in Alfe Menashe will reach our enemies, those people responsible for the killings and attacks in Judaea and Samaria, and encourage them.

Seeing their enemies upset and at a loss only encourages them to continue and even intensify the attacks. As I have already said, I understand the uproar, but we must all understand that we should do only what is beneficial to our cause, only what can put a stop to the attacks on our lives and on our presence in every part of the country.

[Friedman] The incident in Alfe Menashe leads us to the Schifter report on the condition of human rights in the territories. You said last night that the terrorist act sheds a special light on this report. What did you mean?

[Shamir] Well, anyone reading the report might think that Israel houses some particularly violent regime that disregards laws and human rights, which beats, murders, and imprisons. This, of course, is not the situation. What we are faced with here is a wave of provocation consisting of murderous attacks. People are killed; people are assaulted day and night. The report is unbalanced. It does not mention people burned alive, babies with crushed skulls. This should have balanced the report. This should have been reported to the U.S. public, too.

[Dayan] Beyond the problem you have mentioned of the report's imbalance, Mr Shamir, it does report serious findings relating primarily to the early period of the intifadah [uprising]. The report specifies instances of prisoners who died under unclear circumstances, numerous residents detained for lengthy periods, and the unnecessary use of live fire. Beyond the problem of a lack of balance, do you or the Government of Israel have any problems with the facts reviewed by Schifter in his report?

[Shamir] We are all in the process of examining the facts, and we find them difficult to accept. We must, however, confront these facts and put an end to them. A detailed answer will be provided by the security establishment and the Foreign Ministry, but on the whole, it is clear that the state must defend itself against the war being waged against it and its government. The goal of this war is to violate the law and disrupt order, and the state cannot confront it empty-handed. Violence cannot be combatted by moral preaching. This must be understood.

[Friedman] You said that a state has to defend itself against those who wish to destroy it, against people violating law and order. Schifter, however, says—I am quoting what he said last night—that this is an occupation army's overreaction to serious civil disorder through the use of excessive force and excessive punishments. The Americans have thus expressed criticism of the nature of the measures adopted by Israel.

[Shamir] To be able to understand, they must experience what we have experienced. I need not repeat the familiar adage that it is easy to stand back and give advice about using excessive or insufficient measures to combat violence. As I have already said, a detailed reply will be furnished, but the most important fact is that numerous influential Arab circles have taken a malicious step against the Israeli Government and the State of Israel, causing the death, injury, and suffering of hundreds and thousands of people, mainly Arabs. Jews, too, are sometimes killed. Those involved in the intifadah are responsible for all the loss of human life and for the suffering, all of which will lead nowhere.

[Dayan] Mr Shamir, do you fear that the harsh report published yesterday by Richard Schifter, which was predictably widely covered by U.S. media, is liable to endanger U.S. aid and Israeli-U.S relations in general, as commentators and congressmen said yesterday?

[Shamir] I do not think so. Naturally, it does not help Israel's image, because not everyone bothers to acquaint himself in depth with the motives, reasons, and results. In general, however, I believe that the people who count in the United States—members of the administration and Congress—understand the events here. I do not fear any far-reaching consequences.

This, however, is not the worst aspect. The worst aspect is that this situation continues, and an end must be put to it. One cannot, of course, invent a miracle cure that would terminate these savage events in 1 day. We must employ various methods, and new methods must be found. We must fine-tune our fight against this phenomenon, and we—the people responsible for the security and safety of the State of Israel—must control ourselves and not be swept into acts that benefit no one and that can only harm our cause. We must persevere in our efforts and act efficiently and wisely, in order to put an end to these events.

[Dayan] Mr Shamir, in saying that the battle should be made more efficient, are you implying that a substantive change in the methods against the intifadah is required?

[Shamir] I am not talking about fundamental changes. During the period under debate, the security forces changed the confrontation methods several times, which is how it should be.

We must also note the close connection between the events in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and the festivals with which PLO leaders in various parts of the world, mainly in Europe, have been met. I have read a leaflet published by those people, who incite the intifadah activists by triumphantly pointing to the receptions accorded 'Arafat everywhere. This is done to encourage the people who throw the stones and firebombs, because they are the ones who suffer and are sometimes hurt, and they have to be encouraged if they are to carry on their useless activities that will benefit no one.

I am sure many Arabs who live in this area know that this path will lead them to no desirable end; it will only bring more suffering and loss of human life. They know that the only way to achieve anything is through negotiations and a dialogue. They try to circumvent this approach, believing that through stones, Molotov cocktails, and violence they can bring about our withdrawal from not only Judaea and Samaria, but from the entire country. We know they are utterly mistaken; we will withdraw from nowhere.

[Dayan] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, we thank you very much for this interview.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Daily Sees 'No Reason To Be Ashamed' of IDF

TA0902141089 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Feb 89 p 2

[Editorial: The Assistant Secretary's Compassion"]

[Text] It is a bitter irony that on the very day that the U.S. report accusing the IDF of human rights violations in the territories and "unjustified killing" was released, another Jew died in the territories. Additionally, unless it emerges otherwise, the assumption last night was that it was done by the very same "civilian victims" in the territories who melted the U.S. assistant secretary of state's heart.

The report's one-sidedness is one of its gravest deficiencies. The authors saw only the suffering of the civilians and totally ignored the acts of violence that brought the suffering on them.

Another distortion in the report: The authors themselves admit to it when they clearly point out that the report could have been written only because Israel is a democracy and permits access to the sources of information, unlike the other countries mentioned in the report. This means that because we are a democracy and an open society we must also take a "beating."

Despite its one-sidedness and distortion of reality, the report cannot be ignored. On the contrary, it is essential to respond with guts and point out that we are in a war against terrorism, which is used against Jews and Arabs alike, and despite the difficult and provocative conditions, the IDF is meeting all the human rights criteria. If there have been exceptions, they were dealt with properly and the accused were put on trial. We have no reason to be ashamed of the IDF, even if friends find it difficult to understand from far off the reality in which we live.

Schifter Rights Report Said Not 'Unbalanced'

TA0902111689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Human Rights and Abuses"; word in italics as published]

[Text] It is over eight months now since the U.S. assistant secretary of state for human and humanitarian affairs, Richard Schifter, arrived in Jerusalem for an on-the-spot probe of alleged violations of the human rights of Palestinians by the IDF in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Schifter took interest in the use of such measures as administrative detention and curfews in the effort to quell the intifadah [uprising]. He questioned IDF legal advisers and commanders about the employment of riot-control methods, including tear gas, and the treatment given to injured Palestinian demonstrators. Shortly before concluding his June mission Mr. Schifter met with a number of IDF leaders. He observed to them that, by failing to promptly correct false allegations of deviant behaviour by Israeli soldiers, and by allowing disinformation on the subject, Israel had already tarnished its image in America.

That, he warned, might affect future U.S. decisions on economic and military aid to this country.

Back in Washington, Mr. Schifter expressed satisfaction with the new procedures for regular consultation on human rights problems that had been established between the two countries. He voiced little satisfaction, however, with the situation on the ground. There had been, he said, "clear human rights violations" resulting from excessive use of force by the troops. The issue of human rights in the territories was also taken up by the defence minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, on his visit to washington in late June.

Mr. Rabin was understood to have told his American interlocutors that soldiers had been given stricter, more detailed, instructions and that matters were already under control.

That is not the impression to be gained from a reading of the chapter on the territories in the latest edition of the State Department's annual human-rights report published yesterday. On the contrary, the clear impression is that matters are still *not* under control, that many needless and avoidable deaths and injuries are still being inflicted, and that the manner of Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising still leaves a great deal to be desired in terms of respect for basic human rights.

Israel is not singled out for special censure among the 169 countries and territories covered in the report. Homage is in fact paid to Israel's open society, and Israel's free press receives credit as the source from which huge amounts of information were gleaned on the subject. There have plainly been areas of far worse human-rights abuses committed elsewhere than in the territories during the past year. But that is scant comfort for friends of open, democratic Israel and so it should be for Israelis as well.

The publication of the report will no doubt increase the damage to Israel's public image abroad, especially in America and even among American Jews; and it will heighten fears that U.S. Congressmen may be ready to penalize Israel by thinning out its annual $3 billion aid package, even while using budgetary constraints as a pretext. The likelihood of such a blow falling now is not very great. But in the longer term, Israel's disregard of the moral-ideological factor in America's friendship could have disastrous results.

Oddly, the report they ought to have fully expected has caught Israeli policy- and hasbara [public relations]-makers off guard just as the outbreak of the intifadah itself did, 14 months ago.

They cannot, or at least cannot afford to, call it a tissue of lies. So they fault it for being unbalanced. But the report, as edited by Mr. Schifter, does not appear to be at all unbalanced. It is surely no sign of any lack of balance not to accept, for example, Israel's refusal to ratify the Fourth Geneva Convention as warrant for acts that are barred by that convention. What mainly riles the domestic critics, however, is the report's factual observation that the uprising was started by young people motivated by Palestinian nationalism and the desire to bring the occupation to an end.

Foolish Americans, say these critics. They do not realize that the intifadah is in fact a transmogrification of the Palestinian terrorist threat to Israel's very existence. Thus, by blurring the distinction between the uprising and terrorism, the Israeli critics play into the hands of PLO propagandists who are now trying to convince the Americans that the Habash terrorists killed in Lebanon on their way to the border a few days ago were authentic soldiers of the intifadah.

Rabin Sees Continuing PLO 'Terror' Activity

TA0702184389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that the infiltrations by terrorist squads from Lebanon constitute terror in the full sense of the word and that the PLO is continuing its terror activities in Lebanon and in the territories in order to prevent anyone from voicing an opinion.

[Begin Rabin recording] I do not think that the PLO has stopped its terror activities, at any rate not by my standards. I think that the activities taking place within the uprising in the territories are acts of terror. I believe that the most prominent example of typical and outright terror in the territories is the warning to territory residents not to dare to speak their minds or take action as they see fit. This was set out clearly in 'Arafat's statements in Jeddah and Baghdad against the mayor of Bethlehem. The activity from the direction of the Lebanese border is terror par excellence. Therefore, I am surprised that the question as to whether the PLO is continuing terror activities has been put forward. [end recording]

The defense minister was visiting the Gaza Strip and the Qezi'ot detention camp, where he spoke with detainees from the territories. His remarks were brought by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 7 February adds that "Rabin asked his interlocutors why they were not prepared to represent the residents of the territories. One of them retorted that the leadership of the Palestinian people is that of the PLO. Rabin's response was that the Palestinians are continuing to repeat their mistake from 1948."]

Inner Cabinet Decides on Action Against Violence

TA0802181489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The Inner Cabinet meeting ended today with a discussion of the security aspects of the defense establishment's policy in Judaea and Samaria in its confrontation with the uprising. It was decided that the government will continue acting firmly against every kind of terror and that the security forces will continue safeguarding all the inhabitants in settlements, on roads, and at work places. Firm action within the framework of the law will be taken to prevent all violence.

Spokesman Rejects Report on Intelligence 'Purges'

TA0902110089 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Feb 89 p 4

[Report by New York correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has demanded that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the Intelligence Corps commander conduct purges in the corps because intelligence reports submitted to Shamir had contradicted the government's stand.

The recent report stated that the PLO's declarations regarding a two-state solution are sincere and that any attempt to circumvent them is doomed to failure.

This revelation was published in yesterday's issue of the New York weekly, THE VILLAGE VOICE, which has reached Israel. The item was printed on the weekly's entire front page under the headline: "How Israel Has Concealed the Truth About 'Arafat."

The VILLAGE VOICE report relies on an Israeli intelligence officer who read the Intelligence Corps' recent reports and relayed details of their contents to the New York weekly.

Our military correspondent Dani Sade notes that the Defense Ministry yesterday rejected the VILLAGE VOICE article. "The paper's report," said a senior Defense Ministry source, "is utter nonsense and totally unfounded."

Norway 'Does Not Share' Comparison Views

TA0702115689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The Norwegian ambassador in Israel, Torleiv Nada, today came to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on the instructions of his government. He said that the Norwegian Government does not share the views comparing Israeli policy in southern Lebanon to conditions that prevailed in Norway under the fascist occupation. These views had been expressed by the commander of the Norwegian contingent in southern Lebanon.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the ambassador added that the Norwegian contingent in southern Lebanon does not operate under Norwegian command, but under the command of the United Nations.

UN Apologizes for Remarks

TA0802134789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The United Nations has apologized to Israel for remarks made by the commander of the Norwegian contingent in UNIFIL that compared the acts of the IDF in southern Lebanon to Nazi deeds in Europe.

The UN undersecretary general delivered the apology to our UN representative. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that because the Norwegian officer made the remark for which his government has apologized Israel is expecting UNIFIL to draw the necessary conclusions about the officer.

Poll Shows 50 Percent Against New Settlements

TA0902100689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Feb 89 p 4

[Text] Half of the population opposes the establishment of new settlements, while one-third supports them. These are the findings of a nationwide public opinion poll commissioned by HA'ARETZ and conducted by the PORI Institute.

The question "Are you for or against the establishment of new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip this year?" was answered in the negative by 49.9 percent and in the affirmative by 32.7 percent.

Some 7.55 percent of the interviewees qualified their answer by saying that "it depends on the circumstances," and 9.9 percent had no opinion on the subject.

The poll included a representative sample of personal interviews conducted throughout Israel with 1,200 men and women over the age of 18. this is not in territories

Supreme Court Reduces Stonethrower's Sentence

TA0802134189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The Supreme Court has mitigated the sentence handed down on a minor who threw stones at cars on the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway. The minor was sentenced to 1 year in prison and a 1-year suspended sentence. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul notes that the District Court had sentenced him to 2 years in prison and a 3-year suspended sentence. The Supreme Court mitigated his sentence because others who participated in the act were given lenient sentences.

Curfews Limited To Test Reaction to Rabin Plan

TA0802122189 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Feb 89 pp 1, 4

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The defense establishment has decided to substantially limit the use of curfews throughout the territories. This was reported to 'AL HAMISHMAR by official security sources.

Accordingly, the IDF units in the Central and Southern Commands have been refraining from employing curfews as a preemptive or penal measure against villagers, refugee camp residents, or townsmen.

The decision was made within the general framework of the intention to somewhat lessen the pressure on the locals in a bid to examine their reaction to such a reduction, particularly in the wake of the publication of Yitzhaq Rabin's political plan.

A senior IDF officer has told our military correspondent that personalities from the territories have appealed to the army and the Civil Administration "to somewhat loosen the reins" in the hope that the local population will not abuse this to stage mass violent demonstrations. The IDF has complied with the request. Consequently, the use of curfews was more sparse last month compared to previous months, during which hundreds of curfew days were recorded throughout the territories.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Demolitions Cause 'Riots'

TA0702121789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration this morning demolished several illegally built houses in the village of 'Azzun, near Qalqilyah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the demolitions were accompanied by a general uproar and riots by local youths. It is not known whether the IDF intervened.

In the Ramallah market, the Civil Administration removed stands erected without a permit.

In the Gaza Strip, the curfew remains in effect in the Jabalyah, Al-Shati', and Khan Yunus refugee camps in the wake of last week's disturbances. The curfew in Al-Shati' was lifted this morning to allow the residents to stock up on food. After rioting resumed, the army again clamped a curfew on the camp.

Classes were not held in the Gaza Strip today in protest over the high number of casualties and fatalities sustained in clashes with the army.

Firebombs Thrown at Car

TA0802054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Last night, two firebombs were thrown at an Israeli car near Biddiya on the trans-Samaria highway. One of the firebombs struck the vehicle but ignited on the road. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. This was reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

IDF on Casualty Totals

TA0802120689 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 8 Feb 89 p 6

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 6 February, the IDF spokesman reported 296 Palestinian casualties in the occupied territories. This figure included only individuals shot dead by IDF soldiers.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian casualties stands at 396.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 494 dead according to the following breakdown:

—335 killed by shots fired by IDF soldiers and settlers;

—71 killed by gas inhalation;

—39 killed by beatings and electrocution;

—49 dead from other causes.

1 Killed, 1 Hurt in West Bank

TA0802173189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Report by 'Ido Shargil]

[Excerpts] Riots took place this afternoon in the village of Silat al-Haritiyah in the Janin District. A Border Police unit entered the village. It has been reported from the village that one resident was killed in clashes and another was wounded. [passage omitted]

A firebomb was thrown this afternoon near Herod's Gate in East Jerusalem. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. [passage omitted]

Soldier Sentenced

TA0802174389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Reserve Lieutenant 'Oded Zemora, 37, was sentenced to 28 days in military jail for refusing to serve in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that since the beginning of the uprising, 56 soldiers have been sentenced to prison terms for similar offenses.

6 Gazans Sentenced to Prison

TA0902092089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The Gaza military court has handed out prison sentences ranging from 11 months to 2 years and imposed fines on five stone throwers and on a youth who had mediated in the sale of the gun used by the murderers of Martha Weiss from Lakhish. The six were convicted on their own admission.

The security forces demolished fences along Gaza's Al-Nasir Street. The fences had provided cover for stone throwers in several recent incidents.

Security Forces Seal House

TA0902103189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] In the Old City of Jerusalem, the security forces have sealed the house of a man suspected of having thrown an explosive charge at Minister Sharon's house in the Muslim Quarter. The incident occurred 4 months ago. The suspect, Sa'id Dadu, along with several DFLP members, was detained 1 month after the incident. Their trial is now in progress in the Lod military court.

Dadu is one of the terrorists released as part of the deal with Jibril. His brother said that the charge was thrown in protest over Minister Sharon's arrival as an inhabitant of the Muslim Quarter, but was not directed at him personally; the goal was not to harm Jews in general, he added.

Government Closes Offices of Moneychangers 8 Feb
JN0802140089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—As a result of the known circumstances in the region and the non-receipt of the full Arab financial obligations which were decided at the Baghdad summit, Jordan has faced a situation represented by a drop in its foreign currency assets, in light of which it was decided to take a number of economic, financial, and monetary measures in order to control expenditure and regulate the utilization of the Kingdom's foreign currency assets according to national priorities.

In implementation of these national policies and measures, the Central Bank has kept in constant, close touch with the banks, finance companies, and moneychangers, to ensure their cooperation within a framework of responsible freedom, to stabilize the exchange rate of the dinar, and to ensure the flow of foreign currencies into the Kingdom and dealings in them in a sound and legitimate manner. This is in order to achieve the higher national interests and prevent speculation and any other practices that might harm the Kingdom's economic and financial security.

These measures have stabilized the exchange rate of the dinar. The banks and finance companies have strictly adhered to these measures and guidelines, which were regularly assessed by the Central Bank and these banks and finance companies. However, the Central Bank has observed right from the beginning that the moneychangers sector always violated what was agreed upon. Despite the Bank's continuous warnings about the necessity to adhere to the guidelines, the moneychangers have continued their illegal practices and irresponsible behavior.

The Central Bank has established beyond all doubt that these moneychangers are a major cause of the unjustified rise in the exchange rates of foreign currencies against the dinar. The official responsible quarters have in fact discovered scandalous cases that went beyond violating laws, regulations, and guidelines to engaging in the worst forms of greed such as speculating over the national currency, meddling with exchange rates, and trying to control and monopolize dealings in foreign currencies, in order to make illegal profits and tamper with the Kingdom's economic and financial security.

A comprehensive study of all aspects of this subject has established that the Kingdom's foreign currency revenues through the banking system are more than enough to meet the country's needs. A close followup of monetary conditions and the recent situation in the foreign currency market has also shown that the fluctuation in the exchange rate of the dinar is not linked to factors of supply and demand as much as to fiddling and speculation by moneychangers.

Due to all these considerations and out of concern for the Kingdom's monetary stability and the desire to create a free responsible atmosphere for the citizens' dealings in foreign currencies through banks and finance companies and to protect the citizens against exploitation, his excellency the military governor general has issued the following defense order:

Order issued by the military governor general:

In accordance with the guidelines of the Martial Law Ordinance of 1967 and the powers vested in me under Article Five of this ordinance, and for the sake of safeguarding the public interest, I order as follows:

1. Cancelling the licenses of all moneychanging companies operating in the Kingdom and closing their offices and premises.

2. Freezing the accounts of these companies in the banks and finance companies operating in the Kingdom to safeguard other people's rights.

3. Seizing all the records of these companies and carrying out an inventory of their assets.

4. This order shall be carried out as of its date. The competent quarters shall carry it out within the limits of their jurisdictions.

[Signed] The military governor general, 8/2/1989.

Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani has declared that any violator of the military governor general's defense order shall be detained, referred to the court martial, and shall be liable to the severest punishment. Severe measures shall also be taken against anyone who contemplates tampering with the Kingdom's economic security and financial and monetary stability.

Bank Head on 'Abused' Freedom
JN0802201289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], Husayn al-Qasim, has explained the dimensions of the defense order issued by the military govenor general today on cancelling the licenses of all moneychangers operating in the Kingdom and closing their offices and premises, the reasons for issuing this order, and the CBJ's persistent attempts to control the moneychanging market.

He said: All the bank's attempts with the moneychangers were aimed at retaining them and their activity in selling and buying foreign currencies. However, they abused their freedom and engaged in operations similar to those undertaken by commercial banks. They opened accounts in foreign banks for illegal purposes, thereby violating CBJ guidelines.

The governor affirmed: The moneychangers sector had become a source for smuggling capital outside the country, financing undeclared imports, and settling the cost of imports which evaded custom duties and taxation. This was in addition to its speculation operations, which created the conviction in the bank that this would result in great harm for the entire national economy. The excesses and violations by this sector, he explained, harmed the national economy and conflicted with recent government measures to restructure the Jordanian economy, curtail imports, and encourage exports.

This came during the governor's meeting with the press community at the Ministry of Information this evening. The governor said that while the commercial banks adhered to CBJ's daily bulletin on the exchange rates of foreign currencies, the moneychangers did not. They continued to violate agreements reached with them in this respect by creating discrepancies in the exchange rates that did not reflect the true value of the Jordanian dinar [JD], he added. He affirmed that the CBJ bases its policy on the homeland's needs. This policy, he explained, aims at separating the private sector's needs from those of the public sector. He said: A single exchange rate is fixed daily by the CBJ.

Dr Mahir Shukri, deputy governor of the CBJ, explained that before taking today's step, the Bank had considered all possibilities. He noted that a black market cannot possibly emerge in Jordan, because such a market could only exist if the national currency's value was unreal, which is not the case in Jordan. He said that the CBJ will definitely intervene in the case of any crisis in the moneychanging market in the banks, but that will only be at the time and by the method it deems suitable, and in the amounts it specifies. He emphasized the need for the commercial banks to cooperate among themselves to cover the market's foreign currency needs.

Dr Shukri said the JD has three markets: the local market, where the banks will ensure the citizens' legitimate foreign currency needs; and the Gulf states market, which deals directly with Jordanian banks according to the official exchange rate due to their confidence in these banks and Jordanian expatriates' own past experiences with certain moneychangers who became bankrupt which made expatriates restrict their dealings to banks. He affirmed that this measure would lead to a balance in the JD's exchange rate.

As for the third market, Dr Shukri continued, it is the West Bank market, where the Israeli occupation authorities are encouraging citizens to replace the JD with foreign currencies. They permitted the exportation of the JD without any limit and the importation of foreign currencies in any amounts, which would negatively affect the Arab citizens' steadfastness and threaten their economies, he said.

A general discussion then followed on the dimensions of this decision and its positive impact on national economic security. The governor expressed confidence in the Jordanian economy's ability to rely on itself and to build a future based on everyone's cooperation.

Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah had spoken at the outset of the meeting. He affirmed the importance of serious and responsible dialogue based on keeping the media informed of events and developments in the homeland. He added that the purpose of this was to enable them to spread the spirit of patriotism and confidence in the national economy and its ability to overcome this anomalous phase, which calls for everyone's national effort and solidarity.

The minister affirmed that there is great confidence in the creativity of the Jordanian citizen who embodies the nation's pride and ability. He said: Jordan, under its wise leadership, is capable of overcoming all obstacles, depending on its people's willpower to resist and confront. He added that Jordan also depends on its enlightened administration which deals with and follows up events with the highest level of responsibility and devotion. National interests govern every decision, he concluded.

Conferees Discuss Exchange Rate

JN0802213989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i chaired a meeting this evening. It was attended by the Central Bank governor and his deputy and managers of merchant banks and financial firms working in the country.

Prime Minister Al-Rifa'i began the meeting by explaining the reasons that prompted the issuance of the defense order to close moneychanging companies. The banks and firms managers expressed support for this decision since it will end the speculation on the Jordanian Dinar [JD] and the fluctation in its exchange rate.

The conferees asserted that the banking system's revenues of foreign currencies are enough to cover all the private sector's needs—and that they even exceed them—after the channels of leakage of foreign currencies through moneychangers have been removed.

As a result of consultation and discussion, it was decided to fix the rate of exchange of the dollar against the dinar at 538 fils for buying and 542 fils for selling. This rate will be binding to all banks and financial firms in their dealing with citizens.

It was also agreed that banks and financial firms should post their exchange rates of foreign currencies in a prominent place in all their business locations. The banking system shall deal with all Arab and foreign banknotes and provide the citizen's needs in this regard. The Central Bank will amend the currency control

regulations so that they can be be used to provide all legitimate needs for citizens—such as education, medical treatment, pilgrimage, and others.

Those in attendance thanked Prime Minister Al-Rifa'i for the efforts by the government to bolster the financial and monetary stability and strengthen the foundations of national economy.

Bank To Exchange Currency

JN0902131189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] To facilitate the citizens' legitimate needs for Arab and foreign currencies and in coordination with the competent monetary authorities, it has been agreed that the Housing Bank will operate mobile branches to meet the citizens' needs for these currencies at the Jordanian border areas of Al-Ramtha, Al-'Umari, Al-Azraq, Al-Mudawwarah, and Al-Dirrah.

It was also agreed that as of tomorrow, Friday, the Housing Bank will open the following branches to render these services to the people on Fridays: Saqf al-Sayl, downtown Amman, Al-Wahdat, the Housing Bank Mall, and Bayadir Wadi al-Sir in Greater Amman, as well as the branches of Irbid, Al-Zarqa', Al-'Aqabah, Al-Ramtha, and Al-Mafraq.

TIMES Praises 'Timely' Move

JN0902072889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9-10 Feb 89 p 4

[Editorial: "No More Fast Bucks"]

[Text] The least that one can say in describing the decision of the government to close down all money-exchange firms is simple: it is timely and much welcomed. Needless to say, the biggest gainers from this momentous decision is the Jordanian people, from all walks of life, who have been abused so much and for so long by greedy moneychangers.

It is well known that the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar has been a victim of abuse of the first order and exploitation by forces hostile to Jordan's national interest and security and which seek to undermine faith and trust in the Kingdom's economy and fiscal policies. It is obvious to all concerned that the Jordanian dinar is now undervalued to an exaggerated extent, and that moneychangers, whether deliberately or recklessly, unfortunately played a role in the course of events that led to such undervaluation.

It was, therefore, very timely that the government moved to counter the vicious assault on the dinar and help restore the degree of confidence that the Jordanian currency deserves. In the final analysis, the whole of Jordan, particularly the citizen with average income, is the beneficiary of this corrective course of action. For now it is possible once again for any Jordanian citizen with honest intentions and lawful purposes to acquire foreign currency of any kind from any Jordanian bank at the official rate, which also happens to be the appropriate market price.

Lest it be forgotten, it has dawned on Jordanians that enemies of Jordan, whether directly or acting through proxies, are waging premeditated attacks on Jordan, especialy the Kingdom's economy and monetary standing. Fortunately, however, our country is strong in its purpose and dedicated in its mission and institutions to withstand all such attacks. The welcome and popular support extended to Wednesday's government decision to plug the remaining channel that was willy nilly instrumental in bleeding the country of hard currency are a resounding testimony of the wisdom and justification behind the move.

Pretty soon, all those who wagered on the continuous decline of the dinar will discover that their reckless, devious prophecies of doomsday were way out of place and that it would have been wiser to have placed confidence in the strength of the dinar as prescribed by the banking system of the Kingdom rather than on moneychangers whose only motivation is perhaps to earn a fast buck at the expense of Jordan and its people.

Hizballah Withdraws From Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar

NC0902102589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The joint Amal Movement-Hizballah committee today began implementing its task in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Our correspondent in the South reports that Hizballah withdrew most of its military forces from Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar and removed most of the military ramparts. Only 10 Hizballah fighters remained in the area. They are getting ready to withdraw from 'Ayn Bu Siwar. The last Hizballah ambulance left Jba' at 0800 today.

Our correspondent adds that first aid workers of the Al-Risalah al-Islamiyah boy scout movement and the health organization will evacuate eight bodies of Islamic resistance fithters martyred during confrontations with the occupation forces. Our correspondent points out that the withdrawals will be followed by the lifting of sieges, reopening of roads, return of displaced people, and exchange of detainees.

Israeli Planes Overfly South; Amal on Alert

NC0802170189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] A military source in the Amal Movement in the South has declared that the movement's fighters have been put on general alert following Israel's reinforcement of the positions overlooking the liberated areas in the South.

The source also reported that Israeli warplanes have been making intensive flights over the South since 0800 today.

Meanwhile, the so-called Voice of Hope radio has admitted that a landmine has exploded under an M-113 vehicle belonging to the agents on the (Shumma') road, wounding two of agent Lahd's men.

Israeli Mock Raids Reported Near Sidon

NC0902114489 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1139 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Israeli military planes carried out mock raids on areas near Sidon at 1330 today, drawing ground fire.

Killing of 2 Syrian Soldiers in Beirut Claimed

NC0902101489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for an attack on a Syrian occupation post near the Al-Hilu barracks in West Beirut at 2130 yesterday. A spokesman for the organization said the attack, in which machineguns and hand grenades were used, left two Syrian soldiers dead. He added that the Syrian forces surrounded the area and opened heavy fire.

Attack on Syrian Position, Casualties Claimed

NC0802193089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has declared its responsibility for opening fire at a Syrian forces' checkpoint in Al-Bahsas at the southern entrance to Tripoli at 1830 today. The organization issued a statement saying that the position received direct hits, leaving several members of the Syrian special units injured. The organization stressed it will intensify its military operations until Tripoli is liberated.

Shams al-Din Denies Hostages Discussed in Syria

NC0802210489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has stated that the seven-member Arab committee on Lebanon has reached positive results as a first stage, and that it may eventually succeed in its mission.

In a statement to be published in the newspaper AL-LIWA' tomorrow, Shaykh Shams al-Din said that if the Arab committee does not succeed in its mission, this will be due to the intransigence of those who are influenced by the Israeli plan, as he put it.

Shaykh Shams al-Din supported the idea that political reform should take place concurrently with the presidential election because this will eliminate the two sides' fears. However, he said it is not the duty of the committee to hold reconciliations among persons at present, adding that, instead, the committee must try to find a common political denominator for conducting a dialogue conducive to detente.

Concerning the agreement reached in Damascus between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, Shaykh Shams al-Din refused to consider it as a temporary truce but regarded it rather as a final one. He also denied that the hostages issue was brought up during the Damascus talks.

French Parliamentarian Deniau Continues Visit

Meets Al-Huss, Birri

NC0702124089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received today Jean-Francois Deniau, vice president of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the French National Assembly, who was accompanied by French Ambassador to Lebanon Paul Blanc. The conferees discussed the current situation in Lebanon.

After the meeting Deniau stated: We discussed the various aspects of the Lebanese crisis. I am personally convinced that the Lebanese politicians have decided to

act to prevent partition and to avert reaching the point of no return. This demonstrates a feeling of confidence in the future despite the many problems that exist.

He added: I do not believe that those who want to complicate matters constitute a majority. On the contrary, after 3 days of talks, I can say that the majority of the Lebanese want a united Lebanon. Personally, I also want this.

Deniau added: I came to Beirut by way of its International Airport. This is natural because it is the airport of all of Lebanon. I support the election of a president in the near future, because this is a necessary step as far as any state is concerned.

I believe that all the Lebanese hold the same view, a situation that will lead to the resolution of a number of pending problems. The Arab efforts, which we have decided to continue to support, fall within this framework. I hope that all the barriers that separate the Lebanese will soon vanish.

Deniau said: To facilitate this we, in coordination with our ambassador, have held an official dinner at the French Embassy in West Beirut to prove that Beirut is united. I hope that all the contact lines will be eliminated.

Responding to a final question, Deniau said: My contacts with the Arab League to reach a solution to the Lebanese crisis are continuing.

The French envoy is expected to hold a news conference at French Ambassador Paul Blanc's residence tomorrow, at which he will review the results of his talks with the Lebanese leaders.

Deniau then visited Minister Nabih Birri. They discussed the new developments in Lebanon. After the meeting, Deniau said: The meeting was serious and very profound. We particularly discussed the issue of reforms.

Holds News Conference

NC0802111689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] French Envoy Jean-Francois Deniau has said that the Lebanese should rely on themselves to find solutions to the Lebanese problem. The Lebanese should not rely solely on the efforts of the Arab League Committee, despite the importance of these, Deniau said. He added that some progress could be made on certain unresolved matters due to the committee's work, but the committee should not be expected to find the urgent solutions needed to end the abnormal situation in the country.

Speaking at a news conference which he held this morning at the home of French Ambassador Paul Blanc in B'abda, Deniau called for holding the presidential elections at the earliest possible time to prevent the country's partition, a prospect he said, which none of the international sides would approve.

Deniau said that the goal of his visit was to try to narrow the gap in views between the Lebanese parties. He pointed out that his visit was meant to complement the Arab initiative.

French Ambassador to Lebanon Paul Blanc said that the aim of Deniau's visit was not merely to find out more about the situation in the country. Deniau, Blanc said, brought several proposals which he presented to Lebanese officials. Blanc did not elaborate on these.

Departs Beirut for Paris

NC0802111789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] French Envoy Jean-Francois Deniau left Lebanon for Paris at 1115 today via Beirut Airport. He was seen off by some French Embassy officials.

Al-Husayni Returns to Beirut 7 Feb From Paris

NC0702160789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni returned to Beirut at 1615 today from Paris, which he visited after his talks with the Arab ministerial committee in Tunis. A representative from the Syrian Forces was among those who received Al-Husayni at the airport.

Regional Reaction to Damascus Agreement Viewed

NC0302085489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Uri Lubrani [coordinator of Israeli activities in south Lebanon] is very annoyed and dismayed by the agreement between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. Iraq's Saddam [Husayn] is very angry with and distressed by the strength of Iranian-Syrian relations.

The U.S. State Department spokesman has refused to comment on the reconciliation between Hizballah and Amal because it is definitely not in his administration's interest. We, in turn, thank God that the faithful have annoyed, angered, and silenced those whose hands have been involved in inciting seditions and wars here and there. It has become very clear that those harmed by this fraternal reconciliation are Israel, its friends, and those in its area of influence. [passage omitted]

To see evil people angry and the faithful happy with the agreement is not surprising. The reconciliation achieved in Damascus has laid a new and important basis for unleashing the resistance, activating its operations, and uniting the fighting rifle to repel any possible Israeli aggression, to defend the Jabal 'Amil land, and to carry out qualitative operations against the positions of the enemy and its agents. The Damascus agreement will also provide a new dimension to the question of dealing with Lebanon's domestic problem in the struggle against political Maronitism. [passage omitted]

In the eastern areas, Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja' have been taking turns attacking Syria, Muslims, and the nationalists. Their enthusiasm stemmed from a weakness in the Islamic arena, which had resulted from events and problems of the past. The leaders of the eastern areas went too far when they united in their alliances between Israel and the Iraqi regime. They have greatly ridiculed the leaders' of the Muslim arena ability to confront them. They wagered that the conflict among the Muslims would go on forever at a time when they were satisfied and watching while fabricating news flashes and banner headlines to fan the fire of sedition among the sons of the one rank.

Now, and after the collapse of the 'Awn-Ja'ja' wager, how will matters develop in the eastern areas and Israel? What will they do when all the points of the Damascus agreement are implemented, when all problems are solved, and our arena is united on the basis of a number of common denominators?

As for Israel, we will not be surprised if the enemy carries out land or air attacks against Islamic areas to preempt what could happen or could be implemented. Israel will most certainly use its military and intelligence organs. It might adopt a number of practical options, including assassinations, explosions, and shelling and sabotage operations. The Lebanese Forces' reaction will be no more than the implementation of the Zionists' plots and the options they adopt.

Certainly coordination between Israeli intelligence, the Iraqi regime, and the Lebanese Forces will be confirmed and increased to sabotage any endeavor to strengthen the resistance and the struggle against Israel and its local allies. Bringing about reconciliation and alliance among the Islamic and nationalist parties will force the parties in the eastern areas to submit and make concessions, and the balance of power will tilt in favor of the Muslims and nationalists.

What is important is that matters have been placed on the right course, and the train must proceed according to plans. There is no fear or harm received from all the threats being made because Muslim men and youth are ready to respond to the call of duty and to launch major military operations against the enemy and its agents. They are also ready to enter into a battle that has the clear objective of fulfilling the Muslims' ambitions and restoring their rights usurped by political Maronitism. [passage omitted]

'Nationalist Source' Views Tunis Meetings

NC0202141089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Commenting on the outcome of the seven-member Arab committee meetings in Tunis with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and General Michel 'Awn, a nationalist source described these meetyings as a positive development with regard to the Arab countries' fruitful dealing with the Lebanese problem, particularly the required reforms and the presence of the Syrian Arab troops.

The source added: As usual, Gen 'Awn brought to Tunis demands that express the Israeli stand which is hostile to the Lebanese people's interests, unity, and development. The source expressed surprise at 'Awn's campaign against the Arab presence in Lebanon, through the Syrian Arab forces, and his claim that they are forces of occupation while ignoring the Israeli forces and their hostile, destructive role. [passage omitted]

The nationalist source also referred to Yasir 'Arafat's statements. He said: 'Arafat's behavior and statements after meeting with 'Awn, his endorsement of 'Awn's so-called legitimacy, and his placement of the Palestinian rifle at the service of those plotting against the Lebanese and Palestinian issues have not surprised us. The source continued: 'Arafat is taking quick steps toward joining the camp which is hostile to the Palestinian national interests.

The source added: Despite our knowledge of 'Arafat's deviationaist course, his recent statements shocked the Lebanese, who have sacrificed much against the isolationist plot. The statements were even more of a shock to the Palestinian people and resistance, which still directs its weapons against the Zionists. The heroic uprising in the occupied territories was also shocked by the 'Arafat leadership, which is allying itself with the enemies of the Palestinian people who, together with the Lebanese people, have confronted the Israelis and their agents on Lebanon's territory.

Al-Huss Views Arab Efforts, Syrian Presence

NC0402111989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] During a news conference at the government palace this morning, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss described what had taken place in the Tunisian capital as positive and a step in the right direction. He pointed out that the Arab committee will never work out a radical solution in a matter of 2 or 3 days.

Prime Minister al-Huss went on to emphasize the success of the committee's work, adding: We did not go to Tunis just to score points at the propaganda level. He expressed surprise over the inaccurate stands attributed to him and noted that he was taken aback by the imbalanced image portrayed by some media with regard to what had transpired in Tunis.

Prime Minister al-Huss reiterated that the Syrian forces had entered Beirut on the basis of a decision by the Council of Ministers and that these forces would withdraw following a similar decision under a unified regime and a unified government.

The prime minister added: The principles of the Arab committee are extremely serious and we are cooperating with it from these premises. We would like to give this committee the opportunity to perform its task by holding consultations with us and with the others so that it can develop a common concept capable of helping Lebanon ride out its ordeal.

Religious Figures Accept Arab League Invitation
LD0802154089 Kuwait KUNA in English 1209 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 8 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti envoy Wednesday delivered messages from Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir to head of three religious sects in Lebanon inviting them to meet in Kuwait with the Arab League Committee on Lebanon.

The Lebanese Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid and Deputy Chairman of the Islamic Shi'ite Council Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and head of the Druze sect Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shakra welcomed the invitations to meet with the committee February 20 in Kuwait.

The envoy, who is Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim moves to the eastern sector of Beirut later today to deliver a similar message to the head of the Maronite sect Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr.

Jasim arrived here today to deliver the messages and met with the director of the political affairs at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah before meeting with Shaykh Hasan Khalid.

Following the meeting with Shaykh Khalid, the Kuwaiti envoy said he delivered the message of Shaykh Sabah, in his capacity as the head of the Arab League good offices committee, inviting him to meet with the committee on February 20.

Jasim told KUNA that the committee meetings with the Lebanese spiritual leaders will continue till February 22.

He added that the Lebanese mufti has accepted and welcomed the invitation and said the invitations, in addition to the religious leaders, will be extended to Lebanese figures.

Diplomatic sources said that the committee meetings with the Lebanese figures might continue in Kuwait until mid-March before presenting a report on the outcome of the meetings to the Council of Arab Foreign Ministers.

The Kuwaiti ambassador has conveyed two invitations in Damascus yesterday to the head of the Christian Orthodox sect Patriarch Ignatius Hazim and head of the Catholic sect Patriarch Maximas Hakim. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi Cited on Arab Solidarity, Egypt

JN0902113089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Sanaa, 9 Feb (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has stressed that Syria's policy, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, stems from its pan-Arab principles and its firm and permanent belief in the unity of the Arab nation. Any rapprochment, cooperation, or solidarity between two or more Arab countries should constitute a step along the road to full Arab unity, he said.

In a statement to the YAR newspaper AL-THAWRAH to be published today, Al-Zu'bi said that cooperation between Syria and the YAR is a step toward the desired Arab economic integration that realizes the hopes and aspirations of the masses of the Arab nation in all its countries.

He explained that Syria finds in every endeavor leading to Arab solidarity and embodying the methods that make this solidarity effective and able to realize the wishes of the Arab nation a step that reflects usefully and positively on common Arab action.

He pointed out that the reasons for the estrangement between Syria and Egypt are known to everyone and Syria is looking forward to the day when these reasons are removed. It welcomes any move by Egypt to remove the obstacles between it and Syria or between it and its natural position in the Arab solidarity against the Zionist enemy and its schemes, that are hostile to Arab unity.

Al-Zu'bi touched on the situation in Lebanon. He stressed that when Syria, at the invitation of Lebanon and with the welcome of the Arab brothers, assumed the burden of stopping the civil war, its initiative stemmed from its eagerness to protect Lebanon from surrounding dangers and block all attempts, interferences, and plots against the Lebanese entity.

The prime minister pointed out that reforming the political system in Lebanon will lead to a national reconciliation among all the Lebanese, which will place Lebanon on the right path toward ending its crisis and ordeal, maintaining the unity of its land and people, consecrating its Arab affiliation, and preventing any divisive trends in the current Lebanese situation.

Al-Zu'bi praised the valiant Arab uprising in the occupied territories, saying that it gave the Palestinian cause a unified popular dimension, a clear political extent, and a great weight on the international scene.

He said: If we review the Palestinian struggle throughout its stages, we will find that Syria has always been the center of the Palestinian gun and the permanent base for Palestinian fighters.

Al-Zu'bi asserted that Syria's positions are characterized by adherence to and keenness on considering the Palestinan cause the central axis of Arab solidarity. The goal has always been the establishment of the Palestinian state on the soil of Palestine, with Syria supporting every step toward the achievement of this aim, he said.

Paper Cited on Human Rights Report on Israel

JN0902072489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Feb 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Zionist Enemy's Impasse on the International Level," TISHRIN says: The U.S. State Department's report on the recently increased violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories by the Israeli occupation authorioties is new proof that the Zionist entity has not found any party to defend its terrorist crimes—not even Washington, which has concluded a strategic alliance with this entity.

The paper adds: Israeli practices have been condemned by the whole international community. Hence, no one can defend or justify these practices, even the states that are committed to the so-called security of Israel. Concluding, the paper says: The Zionist entity is now living in the dark tunnel in which the uprising has placed it. It is also experiencing growing international isolation.

However, the responsibility of the international community is not confined to condemning terrorist Israeli practices but also includes implementing international resolutions, cutting military and financial aid to Israel, boycotting it, and adopting actual sanctions against it.

Palestine Broadcast Rejects 'Zionist' Initiatives

JN0302190689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Feb 89

[From Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return" by Ibrahim Basyuni]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: Every now and then, enemy military and political leaders come out with what they call initiatives or plans to resolve the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question and claim that they are seeking peace. Among these plans is the Zionist so-called initiative, which was announced few weeks ago by Zionist War Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is directly responsible for executing the iron-fist policy in the occupied Arab territories.

According to reports, the so-called Rabin initiative stipulates holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to prepare for a Palestinian self-autonomy in the services and social fields.

Rabin is adhering to his initiative to negotiate directly with Palestinians from the occupied territories apart from the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Rabin also demands an end to the uprising in the occupied territories.

At the same time, the enemy prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, announced that he intends to propose what he calls a new Israeli initiative during his forthcoming visit to Washington.

What the Zionist enemy resorts to every now and then—from marketing its allegations about a phony peace through phony initiatives—is only an attempt to impose the conditions of the aggressor upon those subjected to aggression. The Zionist enemy, which found itself 14 months after the uprising began in a dilemma both on the internal and international levels, is trying to walk away from this dilemma under the cover of phony initiatives and plans, the crux of which is not different from what was in the Camp David Accords.

However, these Zionist initiatives and proposals are no longer concealed from anyone. They aim to absorb the growing international resentment that resulted from the increase in Zionist terrorist practices against our people in the occupied homeland. They also aim in different manners to encircle our kinfolk's uprising in order to abort it and divert it from its real path so that the enemy can find an opportunity to assault it and our Palestinian people's rights.

However, these attempts have failed. As the enemy's military and terrorist methods have failed, its political methods have failed. Our Palestinian Arab people have rejected Rabin's and other Zionist proposals and affirmed their commitments to the bases of just solutions, the most important of which are Israeli withdrawl from the occupied Arab territories and recognizing our Palestinian people's national rights, foremost of which is their right to establish their independent state on their Palestinian soil. Without this, our people's uprising will not stop or cool down. It will continue ablaze, no matter what sacrifices there may be and no matter how fierce the Zionist challenges. Our people's determination will triumph in the end.

Reservations 'Dropped' on Dialogue With 'Arafat

PM0902082989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Feb 89 p1

[Unattributed report: "Damascus Has Dropped Its Reservations About Reconciliation With 'Arafat"]

[Text] Kuwait—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Syria has dropped all its previous reservations about unconditionally initiating a comprehensive dialogue with the PLO. The Syrian decision to establish comprehensive reconciliation with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the other Palestinian leaderships about which Damascus had voiced reservations has been conveyed to the Executive Committee via more than one party in the past 2 days.

Reliable Palestinian sources in Kuwait told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO has informed mediators of its response to the new Syrian position, requesting that two conditions be met: First, open Syrian recognition of the Palestinian state. Second, the establishment of a kind of coordination and cooperation without the two parties imposing any tutelage on one another or interfering in one another's affairs.

Papers Cited on Lebanon Committee's Findings

JN0502084589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Feb 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Arab committee dealing with the Lebanese crisis is serious in its work toward reaching common denominators between the various parties to the dispute. Its chairman, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, has said that Syria is the most responsive toward what is asked of it to save Lebanon from its crisis. This is enough to highlight Syria's principled and firm stand on national and pan-Arab issues.

The paper clarifies that the Arab committee has reached Syria's conviction that there are certain sides working to maintain and deepen the Lebanese crisis in the interest of the Zionist entity. AL-BA'TH demands the exposure of all those who work against Lebanon, land and people, because their continued existence not only harms Lebanon, but our entire Arab homeland.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH deals with the same topic. It says: The events of 14 years of sacrifice and Syria's stands since its fraternal initiative in 1976, have affirmed that the Syrian salvation epic continues. Opinions on this do not differ and it is unaffected by tensions and attempts to contain it. The paper also affirms that Syria is fully prepared, under any circumstances, to perform its necessary duties. Its basic goal has been clear and declared since the Syrian forces entered Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Rebels Fire Missile at Kabul; 7 Killed

LD0802181689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The criminal extremists protected by Pakistan today again committed a shocking crime in Kabul, resorting to a savage and inhuman action. The BAKHTAR military section reports that today at around 1600 criminal extremists fired a surface-to-surface missile at Kabul city, as a result of which seven of our compatriots were martyred near Bibimahro hamam [public bath].

Another 20 including children and women, were wounded. A 5-year-old child and a 13-year-old child were among the martyrs of this tragic incident. The wounded were transferred to a hospital. they are under treatment and their condition is improving.

On 17 and 19 Dalw [5 and 7 February], these criminals fired four surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas in Kabul. One of these missiles hit the house of Haji Baghi Shah in Deh Khodaydad martyring a small girl named Hasina. Three others were wounded.

Shells hit the house of Ghulam Rabbani in the Khwaja (Boghra) region as well nonresidential areas. No loss of life was inflicted but material losses were suffered.

Army Takes 'Hostages' To Halt Salang Attacks

BK0902015289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1901 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 8 (AFP)—Some 2,000 Panjshir valley natives residing in Kabul were taken hostage by the Afghan Army on February 1 to force the rebels under commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to cease their attacks along the Salang highway, the resistance said here Wednesday.

Rebels under Mr. Mas'ud, also a valley native, have attacked the highway linking Kabul to the Soviet border, used by withdrawing Soviet soldiers.

The Jamiyat-e Eslami, the relatively moderate fundamentalist party Mr. Mas'ud belongs to, said in a statement that most of the hostages were elderly.

The Soviets have in the past used the same methods and have threatened to kill the hostages if the mujahidin attacked convoys on the highway, said the statement quoted by the pro-rebel Afghan Media Resource Center (AMRC).

The report could not be independently confirmed.

The Salang and the Panjshir around it, northeast of Kabul, have recently been the scene of clashes between the rebels and Soviet and Afghan government forces.

Bomb Planted by 'Extremists' Defused in Charikar

LD0802152289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] A police officer of Parvan Province yesterday prevented a tragic incident in the city of Charikar. According to a report by the BAKHTAR military correspondent in the city of Charikar, elements associated with extremists had placed 25 kg of TNT in a crowded part of the city, where it was discovered and defused.

Najibullah Addresses Clergy, Religious Scholars

LD0802234189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Speech by President Najibullah at a meeting with clergymen in Kabul on 8 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed members of the High Consultative Islamic Council and dear ulema, it is a matter of pleasure that we had the opportunity once again to take part together in the broad meeting of ulema and religious scholars at the invitation of the High Consultative Islamic Council. [passage omitted]

Another significant gain of the Republic of Afghanistan, in line with consultations with the country's religious leaders and ulema, was the successful convocation of an international Islamic gathering on the occasion of the auspicious birth of the prophet Muhammad, which has been one of the unprecedented events in the country. This gathering once again raised Afghanistan's credibility in the Islamic world to a high level. Representatives of the countries and continents of the world at the conference realised the truth of Islam, on the one hand, and on the other came to know the lies told by the enemies of our homeland, who still are engaged in political trade under the name of Islam.

The Republic of Afghanistan's proposal at this gathering concerning its readiness to begin negotiations with the opposition at holy Mecca—a wise and important initiative—had profound influence on international public opinion, particularly in the Islamic countries. A considerable number of influential personalities of the Islamic countries embarked on support for this proposal. On the other hand, the opposition, who dared to reject a proposal for talks in the house of God without any (?reason), were isolated.

The results of this important gathering reconfirmed our people's belief in the fact that the existence of an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding between the state sovereignty and religious ulema and listening to their advice made more fruitful all our measures for safeguarding the national sovereignty, territorial integrity, progress, and development of our Islamic country, beloved Afghanistan. We praise and appreciate all efforts in this regard.

A large number of religious leaders and ulema of the country requested the reprinting of the Koranic interpretation [tafsir] printed in Kabul. In line with this request, the government has commissioned the printing of this interpretation of the holy Koran in the Pashto and Dari languages as soon as possible, so as to place it at the disposal of our faithful compatriots.

Esteemed ulema, what is more vital than anything else to the persecuted Afghan people is the Islamic and humane national reconciliation policy, which the Republic of Afghanistan announced 2 years ago at the proposal of you scholars. This policy, to which the life and destiny of the Afghan people now are tied, has specified the manifold responsibility of each of us before Almighty God and his creatures. This policy is aimed at ending bloodshed, at halting the killing of Muslim by Muslim, and at the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the country. Without doubt, it emanates from the words of almighty God and the holy Koran.

No one can doubt that the national reconciliation policy and the necessity for maintaining peace among Muslim brothers are in complete accord with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam. We emphatically point out that the fundamental reason for the decision and desire to announce this policy is exclusively the cessation of bloodshed between brothers and the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan.

To achieve this aim, we have accepted every principled compromise. However, we will not give anyone the right to consider our humane stand as weakness or incapacity. A force that has understood the demand of the great masses of the people and has put this demand above its own interests undoubtedly will gain the support and backing of all sections of society. Therefore, on the basis of the policy relying on the will of our people, we will not allow anyone to impose their will on us or dictate their policy to us.

In line with its principled humanitarian policy, the Republic of Afghanistan has made every effort—among them the Geneva Accords, which were signed by our state in light of the national reconciliation policy—toward putting an immediate end to the war and toward maintaining peace. The contracting parties to the Geneva Accords are known; they are Afghanistan and Pakistan. The United States and the Soviet Union have signed as guarantor countries for the accords' implementation.

Let us have a look at the results of this implementation. As one of the contracting parties, the Republic of Afghanistan has proved its dedication to carrying out the accords with complete sincerity. The limited Soviet military contingent, in line with the specifications of the accords, are returning to their country.

However, what did Pakistan do for its part? Not only has Pakistan not observed any article of the accords, but in contravention of their provisions it has consulted and negotiated on Afghanistan's fate with countries and personalities other than those of Afghanistan, with which it signed the Geneva Accords. What can we call these deviations but a policy of insulting international norms and principles?

Our opponents—especially the extremist sector, which speaks the language of guns and is supported by Pakistan—so far have not been able to put forward a realistic, pragmatic proposal for ending the war. This means that they see a continuation of the war as being in their interests; they cannot breathe in an atmosphere of peace. Each of them thinks of being an amir or a president, about seizing power. They have intensified the war and the killing of Muslims in order to achieve their dream.

In our proposals we set out the formation of a coalition government that would have a broad, neutral base and would represent all sections, groups, and elements interested in safeguarding the existence of an independent, powerful, and developed Afghanistan. As a preliminary step, such a government would call for talks with and the understanding of all sides, and would enforce collective wisdom for restoring permanent peace, for imposing a general cease-fire and control, and for observing accepted norms.

On top of this, as a result of our many contacts with the opposition—both directly and via other countries—with the consent of the Republic of Afghanistan and at its suggestion, esteemed Yuliy Vorontsov, the USSR's first deputy foreign minister and its ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country, met with representatives of the seven-party alliance in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia. Similarly, in line with our previous agreement, talks were conducted in Rome with Muhammad Zahir Shah, the former king of Afghanistan, and with the eight- and seven-party coalitions in Tehran, Islamabad, and again in Tehran. The results of these meetings produced various repercussions in opinion throughout the world.

Heterogeneous views were noticed among the various groups during the meeting which manifested the existence of serious differences among them. For instance, various views and attitudes were witnessed with regard to continuing the negotiations, as well as to their form and content. Some irresponsibly declared an end to the negotiations, while others still are demonstrating a positive stance.

The UN secretary general said the continuation of talks on resolving the Afghan problem was useful, and he requested speedy action in this respect. On the other hand, peace-loving forces and those who sympathize with the fate of Afghanistan assess the continuation of this method as useul, while those who see the maintenance of peace in Afghanistan as endangering their interests take a skeptical view of the background to these talks. Reality has shown that the opposition's approach to all our peaceful efforts has been ambigious, vague, unrealistic, and lacking in any sort of clear prospect.

Those who considered the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan the real cause of the war are seeking other baseless excuses now that all Soviet forces are leaving the country. With the withdrawal of Soviet forces, they have become more confused than ever because they cannot find any pretext to cover their warmongering acts. Ignoring the objective realities of our society and failing to take into account the participation in the future government of the real national forces—the PDPA, which has a long history of struggle and 200,000 members and which enjoys an undeniable strength—they want to block any kind of practical, useful act aimed at peace and prosperity for our people. They want to expand and maintain their reasons for continuing war and bloodshed.

You can judge for yourselves that they want the government—which has 500,000 people under arms, has diplomatic relations with 85 countries, and which is a member of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement—to be completely removed from state power, as they claim, and to deliver the fate of the nation to multiparty groups which even now are killing one another although they have not acceded to power.

What guarantee exists for safeguarding our country's national independence and our people's security when some of them speak publicly about the country's partition and even of the formation of a confederation with Pakistan? What would be history's judgment, that of coming generations? What response would we have to the call of our martyrs' bloody graves? The country is the common home of all Afghans, and no force has the right to prevent a fellow countryman from participating in the country's political life in the manner reflected in the opposition's irresponsible speeches and thinking.

Dear ulema, it is obvious that we put an end to our monopoly of power and provided grounds for the participation in state power of all national and patriotic forces in order to insure all-round peace in the country. Now that the Soviet forces are returning to their country, it is the duty of all of us, of all partriotic forces, of all Afghan people to defend the independence of our common home and to get down to talks among ourselves with the aim of securing peace.

Unfortunately, it seems that extremist groups [words indistinct] talk of intensifying the war and bloodshed. War with whom? With Afghans? With the Government of Afghanistan, which is made up of the children of the country? We believe in the words of God, who said: If two groups of Muslims start fighting each other, peace must be brought about between them. Should one group reject peace, conduct war against that group to [word indistinct], as ordered by God. As far as we are concerned, we have acted in such a manner. The extremists had the right to fight the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan only if it did not want to negotiate with its opponents. Now that the gate of talks and discussion is open, why should we enter the house through the window of war?

Obviously, the Government of Afghanistan, which has been the genuine initiator in restoring peace and commencing talks with the opposition to end further bloodshed in the country, will not deviate from this humane, Islamic policy. The extremists, protected by Pakistan, want not only the continuation of bloodshed in this country, but its intensification. They target the cities and villages of our country with heavy weapons, they burn our elderly, our women and innocent children with the fire of their rockets. They speak of continuing bloodshed in Afghanistan. What should we do under these circumstances and conditions?

Many consultations recently have been given to the Office of the Presidency of Afghanistan by the religious ulema, which give us authority, on the basis of this statement by Almighty God: Then attack them in the same way they attack you.

This gives us the authority to reply, with our people's help, to every aggressor in proportion to their fire.

We have powerful Armed Forces at our disposal. We enjoy the decisive support of our people. Our people's unity with the Armed Forces wrote an epic in the events in Zabol, Laghman, and Konduz. Thousands of enemy rockets had been fired at the innocent people and public welfare institutions there. The enemy then embarked on direct aggression in order to plunder the people's wealth, however, they received such a crushing reply that even today those who wish to usurp power by fighting and force admit their senseless path. Defense of our homeland's honor and the security of its people are our right and duty.

We cannot sit idle while barbaric actions are committed against our innocent people. Peace is the order of God and as true Muslims we are obliged to carry out this order. We believe that sound minds finally will prevail. The bitter facts of war—the burning, 10-year-old war in our country—have made our courageous people firmly believe that there is no other way to end the calamity of fratricide except through the restoration of peace and reconciliation. Enormous (?expenses) have been wasted, no longer should anyone be permitted to quench the thirst of his selfishness with the blood of our innocent people.

Esteemed ulema, the support of our people, of public opinion, and of international organizations for the Government of Afghanistan's initiatives for restoring peace, indicates that our path is the righteous and humane one. The unreserved support for national reconciliation in the resolution issued by 43d UN General Assembly session, which expressed support for the implementation of Geneva accords; the Cyprus conference of the nonaligned foreign ministers; and public opinion in the peace-loving world express support for the Republic of Afghanistan's policy.

Esteemed religious ulema, mosque preachers, and religious scholars of the country have expressed their support for the government's initiatives in mosques, in

takyas [Shi'ite religious center], and at gatherings. This indicates that the government's authority enjoys the constant cooperation and support of religious and realistic ulema.

I want to express profound gratitude for the support and realism of all religious ulema in the country. Obviously, God will not allow all your efforts for ending the war and bloodshed, for the creation of a peaceful atmosphere, and for reconciliation between Muslim brothers to go unrewarded.

We expect the country's religious ulema to use all their energies to encourage our compatriots toward peace and reconciliation. The pulpit of each mosque and takyas, as well as every seminary and school should be transformed to a course of propaganda for peace and for the defense of the country, which is the order and saying of almighty God. Delay and hesitation in propagating this task—naturally it is a task for our own well being—is impermissible for any Muslim, and particularly for ulema and religious leaders.

With the completion of the Soviet units' withdrawal, there will be no reason for continuing war between Muslim brothers. Therefore, it would be right for our religious ulema to take the initiative in convening peace jirgas and in preparing the ground for talks with the oppositions in cities, villages, and hamlets. Such sympathetic, courageous, and perceptive acts of responsibility toward the slaves of God, who are being unnecessarily burned in the fires of war, is demanded of us.

As a Muslim, I believe that there will be no death except by the will of Almighty God, who says: Wherever you are, death will find you, even though you may be in solid palaces, yet this will not happen unless its time has come. It is a proud death that comes to a Muslim in pursuance of the will of almighty God and the prosperity of his creatures.

You are seeing with your own eyes the facts of life in your country. In order to prevent famine, the Government of Afghanistan supplies foodstuffs from various sources and transports them to the cities. However, the opposition is blocking the roads so the foodstuffs necessary for the life of children, the elderly and the poor—God's creatures, in a word—are held up and plundered, and they call this action a jihad! You be the judges! Are such actions—which take the bread, the means of life away from the people so that the city and its environs face famine—in conformity with the sacred religion of Islam?

On the contrary, this issue is seriously directed to those who put the people in distress and difficulties. The prophet of God has said: God will punish those who punish the world's peoples. It is the duty of the esteemed ulema to explain such facts to the people in light of the sacred religion of Islam. The Government of Afghanistan is the people's servant and it will strive by any means possible for plenitude of foodstuffs and other material commodities. However, all of our compatriots also have the duty to take an active part in this noble striving, which is being carried out for their own well-being and prosperity, and to cut off the hands of the plunderers of the people's property.

It is necessary for all-round coordination to be secured for the organization of religious propaganda through the creation of religious foundations. All possibilities should be mobilized in this respect.

Esteemed ulema, obviously the Afghan people are passing through difficult days in the presence of bloody war. No conscientious compatriot's heart is without pain from this war, but we fully believe and hope that the difficult days of life finally will pass from Afghanistan and that the dark clouds of war and insecurity will move on, leaving a clear, beautiful sky over our homeland so the Afghan people may resume their life in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility.

Difficulties do not always last long. Almighty God has stressed that after every difficulty comes easiness and comfort. We have lit the torch of peace and fraternity with the will of almighty God and this torch will light the home of every Afghan. No one has the ability to resist the will of God. I wish you grace and success in obtaining the satisfaction of God and his creatures. God's blessing and peace be upon you.

Rebel Alliance Agrees on Shura Representation

LD0802201289 Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 8, IRNA—Chairman of the Peshawar-based Afghan alliance Sebghatullah Mojadeddi today confirmed an agreement between the alliance and the Iran-based eight party Afghan coalition on the number of the coalition's representatives in the coming consultative council.

Mojadeddi in an interview with IRNA here said the agreement was concluded during his visit to Tehran and that "this should not be considered as a personal stance."

He said in his visit to Tehran and talks with the coalition he was in contact with the alliance in Pakistan. "I was authorized to ink the agremeent on behalf of the alliance." He stressed.

On opinions of certain Afghan groups in Peshawar on their quota in the Council Mojadeddi said the National Salvation Front (his party) is ready to put some of its quota at the disposal of the coalition so that the coalition's quota reaches 100.

"Personal statements of the alliance leaders has no effect on the agreement. If the agreement continues to be opposed the alliance will not participate in the council," Mojadeddi warned.

Noting that the first meeting of the council will be held on Friday, Mojadeddi advised Afghan mujahidin and refugees to keep their unity and put aside any religious, racial and ethnic differences at this juncture which promises the victory of the Afghans and liberation of their country.

Shi'ites' Khalili on Pact

LD0902063389 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 8, IRNA—The representative of the Iran-basd 8-party Afghan mujahidin coalition, Muhammad Karim Khalili, announced an agreement with the 7-party alliance based in Pakistan on the number of seats for his coalition in the future council (shura) and the number of ministers in the cabinet of his country.

In an interview with IRNA and Iranian radio and TV on Wednesday here Khalili said the Iran-based mujahidin coalition will have 100 members in the 539-member shura, 17 ministers in the 28-man interim cabinet and 27 representatives in the High Revolutionary Council.

Khalili is visiting Pakistan to make preparations for the composition and constitution of the shura.

He said the 8-party coalition has already prepared the list of its 100 members in the shura who were ready to travel to Islamabad any time.

Commenting on the views of certain Afghan leaders in Peshawar on their quotas in the council, he said "personal statements of the alliance leaders have no effect on the agreement."

Early this week the Afghan mujahidin based in Pakistan and Iran signed a solidarity pact after weeks of negotiations on the formation of a resistance council which is to decide on an interim government in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from the country.

The agreement between the two alliances will be made public whenever the "time is ripe," Khalili said.

Rebel Commanders Wary of Resistance Assembly

BK0902032789 Hong Kong AFP in English 0258 GMT 9 Feb 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 9 (AFP)—A traditional assembly called by the Afghan resistance for Friday [10 February] in neighboring Rawalpindi is causing rifts among rebel ranks, provoking mistrust among commanders and hostile demonstrations by Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Rebel military commanders in particular are expressing doubts about the assembly, whose 519 members selected by a "verification committee" of mujahidin political parties are to name an interim government to take power after the fall of the Moscow-backed Kabul government.

Many critics claim the assembly will not be representative, and some are demanding free elections.

Taking up the commanders' complants, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, head of the radical fundamentalist faction of the Hezb-e Eslami, said last week that he regretted the shortage of mujahidin military leaders among assembly members.

The absence of commanders who have been fighting Soviet-Afghan forces for the past nine years, or a too-marked tilt towards fundamentalist Moslems could damage the credibility of the assembly, observers here said.

Another divisive factor among rebel ranks is former Afghan King Zahir Shah, who has lived in exile in Rome since his 1973 ouster and whose supporters have been staging demonstrations throughout Pakistan over the past few weeks.

Dozens of people were injured in fights that broke out Wednesday when hundreds of Afghan refugees demonstrated in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar for the return of the king.

"If there are no positive results, we could always form a commanders' assembly," said Commander Muhammad Akhtar of the Saudi-backed Etehad-e Eslami group.

"The commanders inside Afghanistan have organized to put pressure on the seven political leaders," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Peshawar recently.

"We are blind. We are not kept informed," complained Amin Wardak, a commander of the Hezb-e Eslami's relatively moderate Yunis Khalis faction.

'Abdul Haq, the Khalis faction's Kabul-based commander, also expressed dissatisfaction with the assembly recently.

"I don't know how much they are serious about the shura (assembly)," he said. "My name has been proposed for the shura but I don't know if the screening committee will pass it because I am very outspoken."

He said the commanders had always respected their leaders, but warned that "if we know the country is going to die, then we will take our decision."

"The commanders will come together," he said.

A group of 220 mujahidin commanders, religious leaders and tribal elders from nine Afghan provinces met in Peshawar Tuesday to demand free elections and question the power of the seven-party Sunni alliance's political leaders based in that city.

In the southwestern city of Quetta, thousands of Afghans participated in a demonstration at the Pangpai refugee camp to hear 11 of the 19 speakers appeal for free elections and strongly criticize the assembly for not being representative enough.

Four Muslim Militia Groups Form 'Dawn Front'
LD0902073689 Tehran IRNA in English 0719 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Feb. 9, IRNA—Four Afghan Muslim militia groups have joined together forming the "Afghanistan Islamic Fajr Front", said reliable Afghan guerrilla sources here Wednesday.

The sources added that the four groups of "Majma'e Velayat-e Faqih", "Shahid Haj Nowrouz-Ali", "Hezb-e Eslami Ra'd" and "Anjoman Doaye Nodbeh" in a statement announced abolition of the groups and formation of the Fajr (Dawn) Front.

India

Gandhi Expresses Concern Over Pakistani Missile
BK0802125189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The prime minister has said India is worried about the testing of a surface-to-surface missile by Pakistan, as it is capable of carrying a nuclear weapon. In an interview to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the recent disclosure about Pakistan's nuclear program is also worrying, but it is very difficult to say whether Islamabad already has a nuclear weapon. He expressed the hope that the United States will put pressure on Pakistan and prevent it from making nuclear bombs.

Mr Gandhi said the people of India and Pakistan want friendly relations and hoped that the coming to power of Ms Benazir Bhutto will help bring this about.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said he was looking forward to the visit of the Australian prime minister. He said India and Australia can work together for disarmament.

Nuclear Program Harms 'Goodwill'
BK0802115589 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Commentary by S.C. Bhatt: "The Bomb Again"]

[Text] India has voiced her concern once again over the nuclear weapons program of her neighbor. This was done by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, himself a few days ago while speaking to his Congress-I party men in Bombay. The theme was India's relations with the neighbors and Mr Gandhi rightly chose the occasion to refer to reliable reports which pointed to the advance in the bomb project, which Pakistan has pursued relentlessly.

The reports are mainly of two kinds. The acquisition of tritium by Pakistan as before by clandestine means and the test firing of missiles claimed and confirmed by Pakistan's official media. Tritium, as Mr Gandhi pointed out, boosts the yields of bomb 4 or 5 times and has hardly any other application. Missile testing seems to be going on pace in Pakistan.

First, it was claimed that a rocket, which can go deep into space as far out as 650 km, had been tested. Then the Pakistan Army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, announced that his country has successfully test fired a long range missile with a range of 300 km.

In addition, another missile with a range of 80 km had also been tested. General Mirza spoke 2 days after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had expressed this country's concern over the tritium and missile development affair in Pakistan.

The Pakistan Army chief's proud announcement did not quell with the statement by his country's Foreign Office that Islamabad was surprised at Mr Rajiv Gandhi's remarks. What was so surprising about them? That tritium has found its way from West Germany to Pakistan had been reported by the European media. The reports about Norway's missiles had come from Pakistan.

If you just put two and two together, you get the kind of reaction which the prime minister gave vent to in Bombay. In fact, the flow of information from American media generally friendly to Pakistan—because Islamabad is an American ally—has been consistently pointing to Islamabad soon becoming the owner of the bomb.

A serious debate is in progress in the United States whether the Bush administration would any longer be in a position to prevaricate as the predecessor had done about Pakistan's nuclear weapons program. The massive military and economic aid program for Pakistan may be in jeopardy if the U.S. President does not certify that Pakistan's nuclear program is a peaceful one.

How can anyone in India ignore all these signals? On top of these reports come yet another account in a leading American weekly, NEWSWEEK. This one said that Pakistan is now in a position to make four nuclear bombs.

Quoting American intelligence estimates, the prestigious weekly said: Pakistan has the capacity to put enriched uranium into shape and has many substitute casings and fusing devices for the bomb. Madam Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan prime minister, has sought to underplay reactions to her country's march toward the bomb.

Mr Gandhi in a speech in Bombay had praised the nuclear policy of the Pakistan People's Party which Madam Bhutto leads. On both sides, therefore, the clear effort is to maintain and strengthen the climate that was generated when Mr Gandhi visited Islamabad for the annual summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC. That was just before the New Year and the two prime ministers had cordial talks and an agreement not to attack each others countries' nuclear facilities was also signed.

It is in the interest of both countries to shore up and build on this promising beginning in normalization of relations which had remained strained for a long time.

Hope has been kindled on both the sides of Indo-Pakistan border that with the return of democracy in Pakistan and the rise to power of Madam Bhutto, the past of unhappy relations can be buried forever. This hope could, however, become a reality only if there is strong and determined effort to foster the forces which shall bury this past and put tendency which could resurrect it. [sentence as heard]

The nuclear weapons program of Pakistan falls in the second category. It can worsely destroy the fabric of trust and goodwill that the Islamabad talks between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Madam Bhutto have helped to create.

Security for nation is of uppermost concern. Pakistan's relentless march toward the bomb cannot but cause the deepest concern in this country. Only reliable evidence on whether the bomb project has been called off after Madam Bhutto assumed the reins office as prime minister can allay Indian fear.

Private Sector To Join in Defense Research

BK0902041489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The scientific adviser to the defense minister, Dr Arunachalam, disclosed in New Delhi that the Defense Research and Development Organization, DRDO, is to bring in private, public, and small industries to make them partners in the defense sector.

He said that DRDO is to set up technology parks at Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Dehra Dun. This will help local entrepreneurs start industries for manufacturing components and subsystems required by the organization. The proposal was discussed at the conference of the Directorate of Defense Laboratories which ended in New Delhi yesterday.

Congress-I Leader Among 3 Shot Dead in Punjab

BK0902091589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] In Punjab three persons—including a Congress-I leader—were shot dead today. Two terrorists attacked and gunned down Mr Shankardas, the Congress-I vice president of Hoshiarpur District in his village (Taparia). In another incident two members of a marriage party were shot dead in (Michra) village under police station Sadar Jullundhur.

Meanwhile, five terrorists have been arrested from various places in the state. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that two terrorists have been arrested from Sangrur District, two from Patiala District, and one from Bhatina District.

Entire Andhra Pradesh Ministry Resigns

BK0802155789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] All the 31 ministers of the Andhra Pradesh Ministry have resigned. A Raj Bhawan [Governor's House] communique in Hyderabad said the resignations of the ministers have been accepted by the governor, Miss Kumud Ben Joshi, on the advice of the chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao.

The communique said all the portfolios of the ministers will be looked after by the chief minister.

Iran

Velayati Ends Visit to UK, Leaves for Spain

LD0802132289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1118 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Velayati, heading a delegation, has left for Madrid in order to expand ties between Iran and Spain by meeting and holding talks with Spanish officials. During this visit, which will take place at the invitation of the Spanish foreign minister, the main topic of talks will be a review of bilateral ties and relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the EEC. Since Spain currently holds the EEC presidency, this visit is significant. It is expected that Mr Velayati's trip to Spain will create a new opening in Madrid-Tehran ties.

Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the two countries' relations have had some ups and downs, but bilateral commercial and political ties have progressed along a rational course. Spain's stance in the face of Iraqi chemical weapon attacks and its refusal to dispatch warships to the Persian Gulf have paved the way for a better political understanding.

Spain's refusal to participate in the economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic, imposed by the United States, is another positive point of our bilateral relations. It therefore seems that, in view of the potential for cooperation between the two countries, and at a time when Iran is facing the issue of postwar reconstruction, Iran-Madrid ties in the technical fields will be upgraded.

Spain is currently involved in some technical and industrial projects in Iran; and in view of the fact that Spain has been always one of Iran's trade partners, one can be hopeful that these relations will expand.

Mr Velayati's trip to Madrid, which is taking place on the eve of his trip to New York to attend the UN Security Council General Assembly [as heard] session on the implementation of Resolution 598, coincided with an unexpected stopover in London and an unplanned meeting with UK foreign secretary Geoffrey Howe.

During this meeting, which took place at the request of the British Foreign Office, issues of mutual interest to the two sides, including Afghanistan and Lebanon and the existing difficulties in the implementation of Resolution 598, were discussed. In the course of this meeting, Mr Velayati stressed the need for the release of the hostages in Lebanon, irrespective of their nationality.

After visiting Spain, Foreign Minister Velayati will go to New York to attend the Security Council General Assembly. This trip is taking place in line with efforts of the UN Secretary General toward implementation of resolution 598. During this trip the issue of extending the mission of the peace-keeping forces along the two countries' borders will be discussed. The forces were stationed along the two countries' borders for 6 months and the time limit has now expired. An extension of this period will depend on the Security Council vote, and the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq must attend the session.

In view of the earlier talks and the agenda fixed by the secretary general for progressing on full implementation of the talks, the Islamic Republic believes that the only way of removing the deadlock in the talks on the implementation of Resolution 598 is by immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi forces to internationally recognized borders.

Leaves Madrid for New York

LD0902133389 Tehran IRNA in English 1324 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Madrid, Feb. 9, IRNA—Iran will release 260 disabled and injured Iraqi POWs on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Islamic revolution's triumph, Iranian foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced here today.

Before his departure to New York, Velayati said the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready for the exchange of all POWS with Iraq within the framework of the United Nations' Resolution 598.

The Iraqi regime pressured by international forums released 255 handicapped and wounded Iranian POWs in two batches on 23 and 24 January after a two-month delay.

According to an agreement reached by Iran and Iraq during the third round of peace talks in Geneva last November, 1,158 Iraqi POWs and 411 Iranian POWs were to be freed in 10 batches starting November 20.

But in three stages the Iraqi regime released only 56 POWs including a group of civilians from border regions kidnapped in the initial days of the Iraqi aggression.

Iran has time and again stressed its humanitarian gesture to release disabled and sick POWs, and reiterated that under Resolution 598 Iraqi forces should withdraw to international borders before all other POWs are exchanged and lasting peace restored. Iran had previously released 800 Iraqi POWs unilaterally.

The Iranian foreign minister, concluding his two-day visit to Spain, left for New York for consultation with U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar on ways to speed up implementation of the peace plan.

Velayati on Official Visit to Spain

For Spanish and Iranian reportage of the visit of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Spain, see the Spain section of the 9 February West Europe DAILY REPORT.

Opposition Leader Discounts Prisoner Release

NC0802204589 Paris AFP in English 2027 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Feb 8 (AFP)—The leader of the main Iranian opposition group, the Mojahedin-e Khalq, Wednesday discounted an announcement that Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni had agreed to release all political prisoners and urged the authorities to treat them "kindly."

"We urge the United Nations Secretary General (Javier Perez de Cuellar) to force Khomeyni to allow an international mission, including Iranian resistance representatives, to visit all prisons, torture chambers and cemeteries," Masud Rajavi, the Mojahedin leader, said.

In a statement released to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Mr. Rajavi also called on Iranian authorities to allow the mission to meet with families of executed dissidents and political prisoners.

"If this so-called amnesty is not baseless, there is no reason for this regime to ban such a mission's visit," he added. [passage omitted]

Mr. Rajavi also called on Iran to list the identities, numbers, sentences and offenses of those already executed and others allegedly freed through the amnesty program. [passage omitted]

In a related development, Mr. Rajavi urged Turkish President Kenan Evren to guarantee the safety of Iranian dissidents in Turkey, a Mojahedin statement said Wednesday.

The message came four days after a visit to Turkey by Iranian Interior Minister Sayed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi during which Mr. Rajavi claimed an accord was signed to facilitate the pressuring and harassing of countless Iranian refugees in Turkey.

Embassy Attack in Netherlands Protested
LD0802135289 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Iran today voiced strong protest against the terrorist attack on its embassy in The Hague on Tuesday [7 February] criticizing the Dutch Government for failing to take necessary security measures.

The Dutch ambassador to Tehran Jan Horak was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today by the head of the 15th Political Department, Seyyed Hussein Musavian and was informed of Iran's complaint.

Despite an earlier warning to the Dutch Foreign Ministry against the possibility of an attack by members of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation (MKO), the Dutch Government did not take any action to prevent the incident, Horak was told.

In reply the Dutch Ambassador expressed regret over the incident and promised on behalf of his government to do its best so that similar incidents would not happen.

Khomeyni Meets Khamene'i on Air Force Anniversary
LD0802134889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] On the 8th day of the auspicious 10 days of Dawn and on the occasion of the anniversary of the day the Air Force swore allegiance to Imam Khomeyni, Air Force commanders; pilots; officials from politico-ideological departments; some of Air Force personnel; Brigadier General Sattari the Air Force commander; and President Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council; today met Imam Khomeyni, Armed Forces commander in chief.

The meeting was opened by Air Force personnel playing an anthem to commemorate the anniversary. Brig Gen Sattari then presented a report in connection with the Air Force's performances, particularly during the 8 years of the imposed war. President Khamene'i then spoke about the highly significant day of 19 Bahman 1357 [8 February 1979, the date the Air Force swore allegiance to Khomeyni]. We start our news report with details of this meeting.

[Begin Sattari recording] [passage omitted] The vigilant presence of Air Force personnel in the magnificent struggles waged by the Muslim ummah, the victory of the Islamic revolution, and the brave and selfless battle by Air Force personnel during the imposed war will all be considered an eternal source of pride for this force. Today, after 8 years of sacred defense, the greatest honor for the Air Force is that it has been praised in the great leader's letter of tribute. This letter of tribute will be a source for pride for the Air Force throughout history.

The all-out 10 years of war by the Air Force against the world arrogance's military siege still continues. This has led to a widespread blossoming of talents needed to relieve shortages and inadequacies and to attain self-sufficiency. The creation of means to repair and rebuild aircraft and air defense equipment is being organized with increasing speed. Everyday we witness the birth of something new in that regard. The repair and rebuilding of equipment will gradually be replaced by the manufacturing of parts.

The increasing progress in those areas made the construction of the first light aircraft in the Air Force possible. That aircraft is currently on the production line in order to provide for future needs. We hope that in the near future we will attain one of our greatest goals and fly a fighter jet built by our active and expert personnel.

Self-sufficiency in training is also one of the Air Force's most important goals. Within this year [Persian year] the country's first Air Force college was opened and it accepted students in required engineering subjects. The establishment of such a college took place despite the problems of the war through God's blessings, the assistance of respected officials, and the efforts of Air Force personnel.

The first course of the military college [daneshkadeh-e sarbaz] was established this year to train student pilots. In addition to meeting the country's demands for aeronautical experts, this college is able to assist friendly countries in training.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force is currently totally alert. The brave and heroic pilots and the ever-vigilant air defense units, as well as technical, repair, maintenance, and logistical units are in the best condition, awaiting the orders of the esteemed commander in chief who holds their lives in the palm of his hand, so as to defend the goals of the magnificant Islamic revolution with might and power.

The ceaseless efforts of the politico-ideological officials and the brother members of the clergy, side by side with the commanders of the Air Force's various units, has strengthened the martyrdom-seeking spirit of personnel, as well as provided the means for their guidance and advice and encouragement in scientific and technical advances.

In conclusion, I wish the blessed Imam a long life. Furthermore, I pray for the success of all of us in serving Islam and in implementing the orders of the esteemed commander in chief. Peace and salutations be upon you. [end recording]

[Begin Khamene'i recording] [Passage omitted] Today the Air Force is proud of its self-reliance. It has this hope: that in a logical and reasoned manner it will become one of the most powerful air forces in the region in the near future, without the need of assistance from anyone. Such a thing for Third World countries has been—and still is—quite unimaginable. For a revolutionary nation, however, this is quite possible and practical. We can observe that major steps have already been taken toward that end.

I must tell you all, dear ones, and all the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces personnel, that your efforts and sacrifices during the 8 years of the imposed war and during the 10 years after the victory of the Islamic revolution are not forgotten by the dear leader of the revolution and by the great nation of Iran. You are worthy of tribute. Our dear imam—as he was just telling me—is praying for you, wishing you a better future and God's blessing and salutations.

For a military establishment the greatest honor is to do its duty in a way that satisfies its nation and leader. This is something that you have achieved. You have not attained this easily; you have put a lot of efforts in it. Before and during the imposed war you remained steadfast in your vigilant barricades and in your places of mission, while at the same time offering many beloved martyrs. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Senior Officials Discuss 10th Anniversary

LD0802214489 Tehran IRNA in English 2137 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—If they were given the chance to go back in time, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani would try to discourage Iraq from invading Iran and Chief Justice Ardabeli would make an effort to end the war after the liberation of Khorramshahr in 1982.

President Khamene'i on the other hand would create a special management school to teach the necessary skills to the revolutionary but inexperienced forces who took over the state administration. "The biggest achievement of the Islamic Revolution is that it has transformed the mentality of the people," he said.

These views were frankly expressed in separate interviews with senior officials of the Islamic Republic who responded to a number of blunt questions on the past experiences of the Islamic Republic. The interviews were published together in a single volume on the tenth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

"If we, with the experience we now have, wanted to start a revolution, we may make an effort to prevent war from breaking out," said Majlis Speaker and acting Armed Forces Commander in Chief Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He also described Iran's demand for a military victory over Iraq as "too big a bite".

President 'Ali Khamene'i said although the Islamic Revolution may be less than half way in achieving its goals it has "started to move in that direction and this is very important."

"Therefore the revolution by no means can be branded a failure."

Also Chief Justice 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabeli said that he believed that the takeover of the American Embassy in Tehran lasted too long.

The following are excerpts chosen from similar questions asked from each official. The interview with Ayatollah Montazeri was separately reported by Iran on Monday.

Q: Revolutions have one thing in common. They have not reached their original goals. Does the last ten years not tell us that the Islamic revolution has followed the same path? Can it not be said that the world has become a small place and great technological achievements force us to think of reform instead of revolution?

President Khamene'i: Your comparison is incorrect. Maybe it could be said that the common denominator in all revolutions is that they have reached relative success in realizing some of their objectives. There are deficiencies in all revolutions and they have not completely reached all their basic goals. This is because of ideological defects and weaknesses, deviations and treachery by the leaders and officials. But the islamic revolution in Iran has not had the same fate as other revolutions.

It is true that we have not reached our destination and we might not even be half way there. But we have started to move in that direction and this is very important. Therefore the revolution by no means can be branded a failure.

The biggest achievement of the Islamic revolution is that it has transformed the mentality of the people. It has pulled them out of the swamp and instead of leaving them with the effects of various deadly intoxicating elements has made them look at themselves.

Speaker Rafsanjani: This is true about other revolutions and to a small extent about our own. It's logical to say that some ideals are not practical.

Concerning our own revolution I think it has remained faithful to its viewpoints and believes they can be carried out. Of course some things may gradually occur. Some new things may happen and there may be a defeat.

No one in the world can impose a political issue on us. We are also independent in making economic decisions. We may not have a totally independent industry but we have not stopped trying to reach this objective.

In the early days we thought we could reach (our objectives) very quickly but in practice we came to understand that it takes a long time and the war especially made it longer.

Q: Is it too soon to compare the Islamic Revolution with other revolutions?

Speaker Rafsanjani: Some things have happened that have given rise to questions. "War, war, till victory" for instance was not a slogan of the revolution but we did not start the war. Military victory has never been one of the objectives of the revolution. Or cutting relations with countries, for example, has never been our slogan. Of course we said it about Israel and South Africa because they are basically illegitimate.

Chief Justice Ardabili: I think the revolution taught us that we have to create a revolution quickly. I think this revolution had good results and if there are any defects it is because of our lack of maturity. We have to get this idea out of our heads that man is a slave of technology.

Q: If we could save what we have learned and go back in time in the beginning of the revolution, what would you repeat and what would you avoid?

President Khamene'i: If I wanted to start right now, one of the things I would certainly do would be to create an organization that would train managers or would hunt for good managers. Another would be to strengthen the universities. Most important of all, if we were to start from scratch, we would give greater centralization to the executive administration.

Speaker Rafsanjani: The question is too general but it could be said that the way we did some things were not right. For instance when we were quickly writing the constitution we still did not have the experience to run a revolutionary country. If we were writing the constitution today it would have been more complete. Or look at the war. If we, with the experience we now have, wanted to start a revolution, we may make an effort in order to prevent war from breaking out.

Chief Justice Ardabili: It is difficult to make a judgement about everything, but about the war I am among those who believe that the war should have been stopped after the liberation of Khorramshahr (in 1982). About the nest of spies (U.S. Embassy in Tehran) my view is that if we had taken the right stands it would have been better but the issue lasted so long that it was left to the majlis (to solve).

Q: Taking refuge to such things as the high council of expedience and accepting Resolution 598 means that the revolution has failed to materialize its original claims? [sentence as received]

President Khamene'i: Accepting Resolution 598 was not at all a mistake. Rather it was a necessary opportunity. By making a revolution we, rightfully, did not give guarantees that we will overcome all problems. We also have to bear with difficulties. What is important is that we don't go backwards.

The council of expedience was another example in breaking deadlocks. It would have been better if this issue had been forseen in the constitution. When it hasn't been, naturally the imam forms the council. This is not a sign of weakness.

Speaker Rafsanjani: Regarding the acceptance of the resolution, we had not given guarantees that the war would continue even if it was not in our interest. (But) The slogans that were given during the war had to be given as long as we were fighting. Concerning the council of expedience it should be said that the nature of a society in war time is different than at peace. During war it is most natural to create centers to make exceptional and quick decisions. Our leadership has the right according to the constitution to make such decisions.

Chief Justice Ardabili: Unpredictable conditions such as the war, economic sanctions, etc, led to the formation of the council.

About Resolution 598 it must be said that it was a military action or a follow up to a military action. We had done some calculations on our capabilities. But we saw that the U.S. is prepared to send its Navy to the Persian Gulf and pull the world along with her. We had not taken this into account.

Q. How successful has the revolution been in realizing slogans such as justice, freedom and spirituality?

President Khamene'i: Of course I wouldn't say that we have reached firm results but we have had good progress on all three.

Speaker Rafsanjani: We are satisfied of what we have achieved concerning independence and we are on our way to achieve other goals. Regarding justice we have had a lot of progress but it is not enough. A kind of discrimination in the use of facilities can be seen but it is not like before. To be fair we have spread a lot of facilities throughout the country.

The prevailing culture before the revolution was one of flattery and similar things but now this doesn't exist anymore. In general I believe the administration of the society has improved a great deal.

Chief Justice Ardabili: As a whole we have been one hundred percent successful in some areas, in some 50 percent, and in some the growth has been negative. I think in the area of political independence we have been totally successful. In implementing justice our record has been relatively good. In terms of freedom we weren't doing badly but the war changed the situation.

But spirituality, if what you mean is attraction towards God and distancing one's self from carnal desires, we have been very successful. We must admit that in cultural activities, like some other things, we don't have a clear aim and policy. There are a lot of ups and downs.

Q: After acccepting Resolution 598 it seemed that one of the most essential things would be to make an honest effort to review the past ten years in order to prevent past mistakes.

President Khamene'i: I believe it would be a good thing to review the revolution, with the exception of the war because of security issues. At least at the level of officials it is necessary that they sit down and see what they have really lost and what they have gained. This is something that unfortunately isn't done and this is because of one basic weakness and that is lack of a centralized executive administration.

Speaker Rafsanjani: We don't think the things that have been done have been generally wrong and therefore we don't think it is necessary to do a general review. But every department will do its own work.

Chief Justice Ardabili: I must admit to a bitter reality here that unfortunately self-centerism [as received] still don't allow us to look at ourselves and become aware of the mistakes.

We are still at a stage that we are trying to blame others for our sins. We have to go through this stage and if we don't it will bring catastrophe.

Q: What is the missing link for the final solution of the problems facing the society?

President Khamene'i: I think the missing link is the issue of management which I mentioned. We are not lacking anything in terms of theory.

If we had a centralized, strong executive administration a lot of this repetition work and interferences would have been stopped.

Speaker Rafsanjani: (The missing link) is directional policy-making. Of course this relates to the issue of leadership, that is to say that it is the leader who should determine the general direction of a state.

The Majlis is free to make laws but has not been given the responsibility (to decide on the direction of state policy). The government is in charge of carrying out policy and the president has not been put in charge of this either.

Therefore it seems that the missing link is centralization and this is not incompatible with democracy.

Q: After the ten years since the victory of the Islamic Revolution some foreign observers believe that in the conflict between the Islamic Revolution and the U.S., the U.S. has been the victor.

Speaker Rafsanjani: I totally disagree. The real loser has been the U.S. The U.S. lost Iran (after the revolution). Then its ignorant policies led to a point that our people were willing to establish relations with all countries but they don't even want to talk to the U.S.

In the war, because of America's mistakes (in dealing with the revolution) we introduced new issues which were in addition to (the demands of the revolution): military victory, the defeat of Iraq, and the total expulsion of the U.S. from the region.

We took too big a bite. In fact it was a defeat for the U.S. when it had to dispatch 70-80 warships to the region.

Yes, we wanted something but weren't able to get it and that was military victory. If we had moved with a bit more planning maybe (military victory) wouldn't have been very far.

Q: In view of what the communist camp is doing, is Iran seeking to solve its problems by getting close to the West? If so does this not help confirm this view that Western domination is inescapable?

Speaker Rafsanjani: Not domination. Domination is very different from relations. We knew from the very beginning that we don't intend to break ties with West. That is why we did not break off relations until they did.

We very much believe that our revolutionary society can continue its path without foreign domination.

Bilateral relations is a correct thing and it is impossible, in today's world, to live without mutual ties.

Chief Justice Ardabili: We cannot live in this world without technology. We don't have a developed technology and we need some things but we believe that we can import technology and at the same time not go under the yoke of colonialism.

Q: How do you assess the future of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the region and the world?

Speaker Rafsanjani: I am very optimistic. I think we have carried out the initial work of the revolution and have passed real and serious dangers.

The revolution, with all the pressures it has endured, has gone through its childhood and is reaching the age of maturity.

If we move wisely our society could become prosperous.

Chief Justice Ardebili: Can the Islamic Revolution survive or not? I think the answer is positive and the revolution has the necessary means to survive.

But if the question is "are we worthy of preserving it or not?", that I must say I don't know.

Aqazadeh Says Foreign Loans Will Not Be Sought

LD0802172289 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Iran will not seek foreign loans during its reconstruction period, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said today in response to a report in a Persian daily two days ago.

In its Monday's issue, RESALAT published a foreign news dispatch quoting Aqazadeh as saying Iran intended to borrow three billion dollars within the next five years.

The oil minister made it clear "as a whole, the ground is not suitable for foreign borrowings."

"However, any discussion on foreign loans would be conditional and limited and only within the framework of vital and fundamental investments," he added.

The foreign minister had also denied reports of Iran seeking a 3 billion dollar loan.

Dismissing rumours, 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in a press conference here on February 5, "we welcome participation of foreign companies in the country's rehabilitation projects."

'Bloodless' Change in Afghanistan Wanted

LD0802182889 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday said the Islamic Republic of Iran would like a "bloodless transition of power in Afghanistan."

"With regards to the little peace of mind we have reached in the war (with Iraq), presently the issue of Afghanistan is among our priorities," he told a group of visitors including ministers from Islamic and Third World countries here to participate in celebrations marking the tenth anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

"In Lebanon," he said, "we succeeded, with the help of Syrian friends and the people of the country, to ease the crisis to some extent. Likewise we are seriously concerned about other issues as our Islamic, humanitarian and revolutionary duty and God willing we will deal with them," he remarked.

The visiting ministers were from Algeria, Zimbabwe, Syria, Sahara, Ghana, Kenya, Gabon, Sierra Leone.

"For us, the ideals of the Islamic revolution, as well as the issues of the Islamic world, the Middle East, and Africa have priority and your presence here is a good opportunity to review the problems of these regions," he told the distinguished guests.

Each of the guests in turn expressed their views on the Islamic revolution and its successes in the international scene.

Velayati on Talks With Iraq, Ties With CSSR

AU0302142589 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 1 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by CTK and RUDE PRAVO correspondent Josef Nyvlt: "CSSR Premier L. Adamec Ends Visit to Iran"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] After having concluded his talks with CSSR Premier L. Adamec, Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati said, in answer to a question from a RUDE PRAVO correspondent, that the talks were very positive and appreciated above all, for their frankness and concreteness. The invitation to the Iranian prime minister to pay a visit to Czechoslovakia constitutes a continuation of the dialogue on a high level and, as attested to by the results of the Tehran meeting, this dialogue is useful and beneficial for both sides.

Asked about the progress of the talks between Iran and Iraq, he said that they are at an impasse, but Iran is striving to settle conflicts by political means, and the UN mediation efforts create hope for favorable developments in the future.

About his visit to Syria, from which he returned on Monday [30 January], he said that its purpose was to end fighting between the Shi'ite organizations Amal and Hizbollah in Lebanon. An agreement was reached and, this visit to Syria also marks the beginning of a new stage in the two countries' friendly relations. [passage omitted]

Cypriot Foreign Minister's Visit Examined

LD0802154589 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb 8, IRNA—Relations between Cyprus and Iran have progressed fast only five months after the two countries established full diplomatic ties last September.

In a first-ever visit, Cyprus Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou spent 3-days at the head of a high-ranking delegation in Tehran from 5-7 February holding talks with the Iranian leadership aimed at solidifying bilateral ties.

Iakovou's visit here is seen by political analysts as an effort to balance ties with Iran in respect to Arab states with whom Cyprus enjoys very good relations.

The two sides agreed to promote Tehran-Nicosia cooperation in the fields of oil, commerce, tourism and mass media.

Cyprus is one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Greek Cypriots are interested that Iran uses its good offices with Turkey to solve the Cyprus problem.

Iran's Prime Minister Husayn Musavi has underlined that it was high time the Cyprus problem be resolved. The small island (pop. 650,000) is divided into a southern Christian Greek part and a northern Turkish Muslim sector since 1974 when Turkey dispatched troops to protect the Turkish minority in the aftermath of an abortive coup supported by the then Greek military regime of Athens to unite Cyprus with Greece.

Cyprus, situated at a stone-throwing distance from the Middle East, plays a vital role in the geo-political diplomacy of the West in order to maintain its hegemony in the region.

Britain maintains two large military bases on the island, also used by the Americans, under a special agreement signed in 1960 when it declared the island independent from its colonial rule.

In 1983 the Turkish Cypriot community declared its own independent 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus', TRNC, which failed to gain recognition except by Ankara.

The new Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou, who was elected in 1988, took the initiative of holding a dialogue with the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash under U.N. auspices with the aim of unifying the island.

Velayati during talks with Iakovou offered Iran's help to find a peaceful settlement to the Cyprus problem. "We are ready to help the Greek and Turkish Cypriots in the island to find a solution to the Cyprus issue," Velayati was quoted saying by the Turkish ANATOLIA news agency.

Iran has no ties with the Muslim TRNC. Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said "if Iran wants to contribute to a solution it should make contact with the northern side."

In-Flight Refueling System Installed on F-5E's

NC0902082789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Remarks by Air Force Commander Brigadier General Sattari; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] Generally speaking, the Air Force's self-sufficiency jihad has been trying for years to develop refueling operations in order to have more flexibility in operations and to be able to improve the combat capability of our fighters. In addition to the refueling of F-4's and F-14's by big tanker planes, we wanted to add yet another capability to our list in the form of refueling a fighter by a fighter. This was achieved, thank God, and was displayed to the public at an air show that we held earlier.

However, it was a more extensive and more sensitive operation to equip the F-5 fighters with a refueling system. Of course, there was such a system in the world for various types of F-5's, but not for the F-5E's. Our planes did not have this system either. This operation will greatly increase this plane's combat capability and, if the necessity arises, we will be able to continue our bombing and our deadly blows deep inside enemy territory. This is a very basic and very effective operation which has yielded results, thank God. Test trials were carried out and production has started.

Khamene'i Urges Advance of Scientific Research

LD0902084589 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i said top priority should be given to scientific research developments in the country and called upon scientists and researchers to take up the challenge to put Iran on the road to technological progress and advancement.

Inaugurating 'Kharazmi' ceremony here Wednesday to honour Iran's scientists and researchers, Khamene'i pointed out that Iran was not inexperienced in scientific research despite efforts by arrogant powers to keep the country backward.

Mohammad ibn Musa al-Khwarazmi (780-850) was a famous Muslim scientist whose renowned book on mathematics 'Kitab al-Jabr Wal Muqabala' (The Book of Integration and Equation) originated the term algebra.

The minister for culture and higher education Mohammad Farhadi, addressing the gathering, said the threefold increase on scientific research spendings since the victory of the Islamic Revolution was not enough, and that the country was lacking behind in scientific and technological research.

He said the establishment of the 'Industrial and Scientific Research Agency' was one step in the right direction for coordinating scientific researches between the private and public sectors and other organisations of the country.

An official from the agency told the meeting that 900 out of the 1,800 research programs accepted were proposed by scientists not attached to the agency.

Presently the agency was working on 300 research programs and 22 other semi-industrial ones, he said.

President 'Ali Khamene'i handed out prizes to the country's three top researchers and inventors at the end of the ceremony.

Musavi Inaugurates Chlorine Unit in Marv Dasht

LD0902093689 Tehran IRNA in English 0927 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Shiraz, Feb. 9 IRNA—A 5.3 billion rial (approx. dlr. 764 m) chlorine unit of a petrochemical plant in Marv Dasht near Shiraz in southern Iran was inaugurated Wednesday [February] by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

Musavi, accompanied by the ministers of oil, energy and health, arrived in Shiraz yesterday to visit the newly-established petrochemical complex, an irrigation network, a hydroelectric power station and a methanol plant in Fars Province.

The chlorine unit is planned to produce 23,000 tons of caustic acid, 30,000 tons of chloric acid, 10,000 tons of fluid chlorine and 22,000 tons of hydrogen peroxide annually.

Situated on a vast 30,000 sq. meter area, the unit, which took two years to complete, uses 120 tons of salt daily, extracted from Maharloo Lake, 60 kms from the plant.

Premier Musavi also visited the 8.2 billion rial (aprox. dlr. 117 m) methanol project which is scheduled to go into operation next year.

The project is under completion by Iranian experts. Some 255 tons of methanol will be produced daily when the project is finished.

2 Shortwave Radio Transmitters Inaugurated

LD0802182589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Coinciding with the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, from today 2,500 kw shortwave radio transmitters were inaugurated in Kamalabad in Karaj. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Bhutto Hopes To Settle Siachen, Kashmir Issues

BK0902040089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that Pakistan wants to settle the Siachen dispute with India peacefully through negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement. In an interview with the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA, the prime minister said that under the Simla Agreement the two sides are required not to change the position unilaterally.

Therefore, Pakistan expects India to recall its troops from Siachen to the position existing prior to the Simla Agreement, thereby assisting in the establishment of good-neighborly relations between the two countries. The prime minister said that Pakistani and Indian defense secretaries have already held four rounds of talks and they are scheduled to meet again to seek a solution to the Siachen issue.

On the Kashmir issue, Ms Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan's stand on it is based on the UN resolution under which the question of accession of the state to either Pakistan or India should be decided through a plebiscite. She made it clear that there is nothing in the Simla Agreement which abolishes the role of the United Nations or any other world body in settling the issue.

On allegations relating to Pakistani assistance to Sikhs in the Indian state of Punjab, the prime minister said they are baseless and fabricated. Ms Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan has wholeheartedly cooperated with India to check illegal activities at the borders. She said interior secretaries of both countries are to hold another meeting to continue their talks in this regard.

On Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, Ms Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan does not have any desire to either manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons.

The prime minister said Pakistan is ready to positively consider any Indian proposal for removing misgivings between the two countries. She supported the Pakistan-India summit talks, saying frequent and increased consultations and dialogue will help in removing misunderstandings and expediting the process of improving relations.

President Receives FRG Armed Forces Chief

BK0802154389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said Pakistan does not harbor aggressive designs against any country and it desires to establish very friendly relationship with all its neighbors on the basis of mutual respect and honor.

He was talking to the chief of the Federal Armed Forces of West Germany, Admiral Wellershoff, who called on him in Islamabad today. The president said Pakistan is working for peace and stability and has taken several important initiatives to ensure lasting peace, but it will not remain oblivious of its defense requirements.

Admiral Wellershoff assured the president that the Federal Republic of Germany is interested in expanding and strengthening its cooperation with Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

'Another Battalion' of Indian Troops Leaves 8 Feb

BK0802132989 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Another battalion of the Indian Peacekeeping Force left Sri Lanka through Kankesanthurai port this afternoon. This is the third battalion of the Indian Peacekeeping Force to be withdrawn from Sri Lanka this year. Another battalion will return home within 2 weeks. [Words indistinct] about 900 Indian soldiers left from Kankesnathurai port today.

Rebels Attack Kandy Temple Guards, Seize Weapons

BK0802133989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Colombo, Feb 8 (AFP)—Suspected Sinhalese rebels raided two military units providing security to Sri Lanka's most sacred Buddhist temple in central Kandy town Wednesday and escaped with dozens of weapons, temple sources said.

Gunmen believed to be from the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) attacked the guard posts of the Dalada Maligawa or Temple of the Tooth, the sources contacted by telephone said.

"We heard a lot of firing. The first report we had was that the raiders had taken a lot of weapons," one source said, adding that the area had been sealed off by police reinforcements.

Troops Repulse Attack

BK0802145089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1430 GMT 8 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan Government troops this evening repulsed an attack launched by subversives on the Sri Dalada Maligawa, the Temple of the Tooth Relic, in the historic hill capital of Kandy, Inspector General of Police Ernest Perera told LANKAPUVATH. He said one person was killed and one other injured. Four soldiers also sustained injuries in the battle, around 1730 hours (local time), today.

Security forces have taken all neccessary measures to safeguard the life and property of Sri Lankans in the country.